# Ebdane says Camp Crame escape an inside job

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**Overweight overcharged in airlines**

DALLAS—Southwest Airlines is under fire for its policy of charging overweight passengers for two tickets if they spill over into their neighbor's seat.

OVERWEIGHT/A20

DETAINED PBMA leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. talks with his followers at the CIDG jail in Camp Crame. Scores of PBMA members in Metro Manila trooped to the national police headquarters to visit their "divine master." DENNIS SABANGAN

## Bacolods want cops to charge Ecleo ma, too

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene Bolambot, *PDI Visayas Bureau* and Christine Avendaño and Cynthia Balana *in Manila*

CEBU CITY—The Bacolod family wants Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo charged in court along with her son for the massacre of four of their family members in Mandaue City, Cebu, on Tuesday.

Angelito "Niño" Bacolod, 24, said he believed that the congresswoman conspired with her son, Ruben Jr., to kill his parents and two siblings.

"She should be included in the

BACOLODS/A20

# Ecleo positive for 'shabu'

By TJ Burgonio and Carlito Pablo

**"DIVINE master" Ruben Ecleo Jr. was high on drugs during Wednesday's bloody encounter on Dinagat Island, police officials said yesterday. Ecleo tested positive for use of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride.**

"That means that he was under the influence of drugs at the time of the encounter between his armed followers and the policemen," said Director Nestorio Gualberto of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The clash, which happened when the authorities served Ecleo a warrant of arrest, left 19 members of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association and a policeman dead.

But Gualberto said Ecleo did not test positive for marijuana use, as some policemen had suspected.

The 47-year-old cult leader tried to sidestep questions about his alleged drug use. "I've already answered that question before," said the surprisingly meek Ecleo, who was presented to the media around noon.

PBMA followers—3.5 million in 15 countries, according to the cult's website—believe he is the reincarnation of Jesus Christ.

Clad in a yellow detention shirt, Ecleo appealed to PBMA members in Surigao del Norte to be calm "to prevent another bloodshed (sic)."

He expressed regret over the violence. "Had I known that this would happen, I should have surrendered. I had thought of surrendering to Senator (Robert) Barbers but the gunfight broke out," he said.

Ecleo also denied having anything to

ECLEO/A18

## Cop-member continues to keep faith in PBMA

By Franklin A. Caliguid
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BUTUAN CITY—Cecilio Padero, a policeman, wears a pair of rings with blue stones common among members of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA).

Padero, a PBMA member for 22 years now, continues to keep faith in the cult and its leader, Ruben Ecleo Jr.

He left Opol, Misamis Oriental, in the early 1980s and sailed for Dinagat Island in search of "spiritual satisfaction."

Padero, 43, is the youngest brother of Juriven Padero, Ecleo's co-accused in the murder of his wife, Alona Bacolod. Juriven was among the 20 persons killed when heavily armed PBMA members attacked the policemen who tried to arrest their leader in Dinagat on Wednesday.

Padero said he was enticed to come to the "promised land" because of the "unthinkable miracles and deeds performed by Ruben Ecleo Sr., the PBMA former supreme master."

COP-MEMBER/A18

## He jammed with master Bobong in Dinagat gig

*(Editor's Note: The writer, a former member of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, played heavy metal music with Ruben "Bobong" Ecleo Jr. in Dinagat in 1987. He requested that the INQUIRER withhold his name. He also changed the names of his bandmates so he could not be traced. He now works for a Manila-based company.)*

SURIGAO CITY—It was in late 1985 when six of my mates in a struggling rock band decided to join the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA).

At the time, I already heard about the PBMA from people who kept pestering us during our practice sessions to join the group so we could become "new persons."

I asked Rico, our drummer, if he was serious about joining the PBMA because I knew that he would no longer be doing the usual things we did during

HE JAMMED/A18

**ECLEO'S ANGELS?** PHOTO COURTESY OF CEBU DAILY NEWS

**PBMA leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. poses with five gun-toting women in camouflaged suits in this undated photo captioned the "Master's Eye."**

## Revilla back: Senate now split evenly at 12-12

By Norman Bordadora, Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia Balana

THE SWING vote has landed—and his fellow passengers on Flight PR 103 knew it. Ailing administration Sen. Ramon Revilla returned to the country yesterday and was met right outside the airplane door by Senate President Franklin Drilon at a little past 6 a.m.

Back from spine surgery in the United States, Revilla holds the key to the current impasse in the Senate. His return solidifies the Senate split at 12-12. But Drilon took strong exceptions to what he described as "unfair and nasty" reports that the ailing Revilla rushed back to the country in order to vote for the administration.

"This is a very cruel and un-Christian observation," Drilon said. "Senator Revilla's health is our primary concern and we will never sacrifice his health for any reason or price."

According to Drilon, he learned of the senator's return only a day before

REVILLA/A7

ROGER MARGALLO

**SENATOR Revilla is wheeled out of the Naia 2 by son Bong Revilla. Welcoming him is Senate President Franklin Drilon.**

## US OKs combat patrol for GIs

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon has approved a plan to send American troops on combat patrol with Filipino soldiers battling Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan, according to defense officials.

But officials said Wednesday that the plan would not allow US troops to stay beyond the end of July when they are scheduled to wind up their six-month military exercise with their Filipino counterparts.

"The United States is planning to permit US advisers to train at the company level for the duration of the Balikatan mission in order to enhance training, communications and situational awareness in their efforts to defeat the Abu Sayyaf group," said Bryan Whitman, a Pentagon spokesperson.

The Pentagon is notifying Congress and working out details with the Philippine government, which is expected to give its approval, two defense officials said.

The expanded program could put US military advisers and trainers at greater risk of being drawn into combat, a prospect that could bring political problems for the Philippine government. The Philippine Constitution prohibits foreigners from engaging in combat in the country.

The program also has raised

US OKs/A18

## 7 Israelis dead in new suicide attack

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Yasser Arafat appealed to Palestinian militias on Thursday to halt attacks on Israeli civilians, after another suicide bombing in Jerusalem killed seven Israelis on Wednesday.

A suicide bombing killed 19 Israelis on Tuesday, the worst in Jerusalem in six years, and sent Israeli troops back into four West Bank towns.

In Israel, there were growing divisions over Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's decision to gradually seize Palestinian areas and occupy them as long as terror attacks continue. Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, leader of the moderate Labor Party, said he was strongly opposing long-term reoccupation of Palestinian areas.

The back-to-back bombings in Jerusalem prompted US President George W. Bush to put his prescription for Palestinian statehood on hold, but he said he remained confident that Mideast peace could be achieved.

Bush repeatedly has demanded Arafat to do more to stop terror attacks as a step toward resuming peace efforts.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, Arafat condemned attacks on Israeli civilians and said shootings and bombings "must be completely halted." Otherwise, he warned, the result might be "full Israeli occu-

7 ISRAELIS/A6

# Second FRONT PAGE

# Ebdane on escape: Inside job

By TJ Burgonio

**THE NEWLY designated national police chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., yesterday said the escape of the suspected leader of the Pentagon kidnap gang from Camp Crame last Wednesday was an "inside job" and may have been aimed at derailing his takeover.**

"Without the involvement of third parties, you can't get out of the compound," said Ebdane who heads the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf).

Ebdane immediately ordered the relief of at least 24 members of the elite Special Action Forces who were the ones on duty when suspected Pentagon leader Faizal Marohombsar and two other detainees bolted the highly secure Naktaf detention facility in Camp Crame.

Among those relieved were Chief Insp. Pat Arumin, chief duty officer, and police officers Dante Repulledo and Rico Cuanico, who were guarding the Naktaf's detention complex at the time of the escape.

The justice department said yesterday it would file criminal charges for "infidelity in the custody of prisoners" against those responsible for the escape.

State prosecutors Stewart Allan Mariano and Peter Ong did not say which police officers would be charged.

They also would not comment whether Ebdane would be held responsible.

The prosecutors said they were also considering filing contempt charges against the Naktaf saying they had repeatedly asked for the transfer of Marohombsar to the Manila City Jail.

Ebdane, citing results of a preliminary investigation, said the escape had been planned as the three detainees were able to switch the padlock of their common detention room with a replica, complete with Naktaf markings.

"Somebody could have done it (for them)," he said.

He admitted that one of the guards was a relative of Marohombsar, who happened to be off-duty at the time of the escape.

Marohombsar, Abdul Macaumpang and Rodolfo Patinio were being held in three separate cells in a common detention room. Only the main door of the detention room was padlocked but not the individual cells.

The detention complex, located at the back of the Naktaf building, is surrounded by an 8 ft-high cyclone wire fence and a massive 12 ft-high concrete wall.

Ebdane, who takes over from outgoing Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza next month, said he was not ruling out sabotage.

He admitted that he had rivals within the PNP but stressed that "we have to find out through the investigation" how the three suspects managed to escape.

Ebdane said that he had briefed President Macapagal-Arroyo about what happened.

He said Ms Macapagal was worried that the escape would have a "bearing on the peace and order situation."

Ms Macapagal had told a forum on Wednesday that she was abolishing the National Anti-Crime Commission, the anti-crime coordinating body chaired by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, of which Naktaf is one of the agencies.

The President said she was abolishing the NACC to give Ebdane full authority to fight crime, particularly kidnapping for ransom.

She said she was giving Ebdane one year to lick the problem.

In an interview yesterday, Ebdane said he was "comfortable" with the challenge and upped the ante by declaring that if he were to fail, "then I'll have to go."

Marohombsar, the alleged operations chief of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang, was arrested in Quiapo on Feb. 16. He was awaiting trial for the kidnapping of a son of former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez.

***With a report from Carlito Pablo and Michael Lim Ubac***


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# Why he escaped

COTABATO CITY—The escaped suspected leader of the Pentagon kidnap gang, Faizal Marohombsar, yesterday claimed that he bolted jail because a ranking police officer was forcing him to convert to Christianity.

Marohombsar, who escaped from a Camp Crame detention cell with two others early Wednesday, told the dxMS radio here that a certain Capt. Jimenez had resorted to torture to get him and other inmates to join the Jesus Christ Family Crusade born-again Christian sect.

"We were being forced to join and become members of a born-again group inside the prison cell. That is against my religion," the 45-year-old Marohombsar, a Maranao Muslim, said in Filipino.

The suspected leader of the kidnap-for-ransom gang, believed to be responsible for the abduction last year of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni in Zamboanga del Sur and Canadian Pierre Belanger in Davao del Sur, said he could not endure the torture any longer.

"I was ready to face all the charges against me but when they started forcing us, physically and mentally, to join the religious group operating inside the center, I decided to plan my escape," he said.

According to his account, at 2 a.m. last Wednesday, Marohombsar, with fellow detainees Abdul Macaompang and Rolando Patino, scaled the three-layer fence at the back of his detention cell in Camp Crame.

He then "casually walked" to freedom, hailing a taxi and heading for the airport where he took a flight to Davao City. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***


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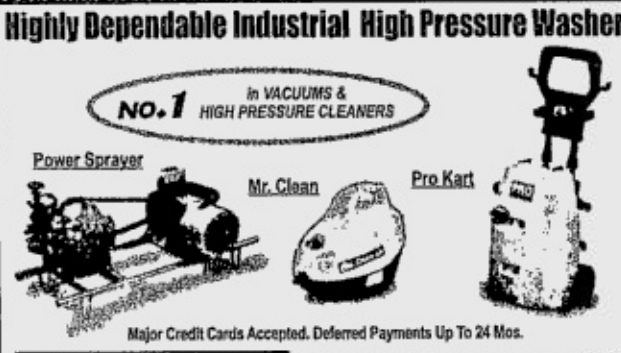

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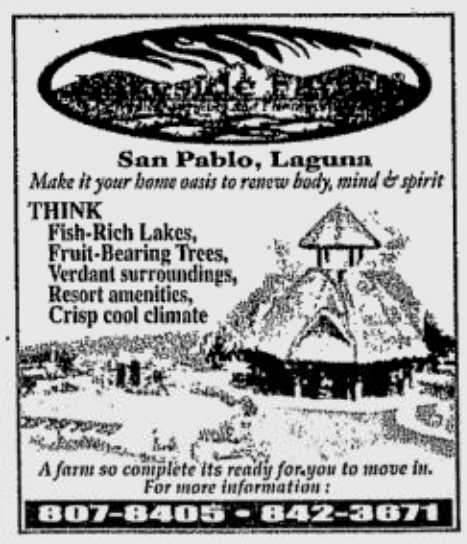


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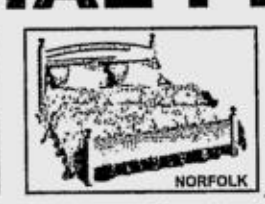

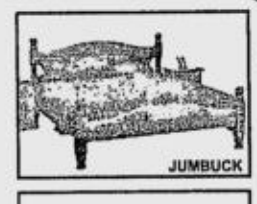

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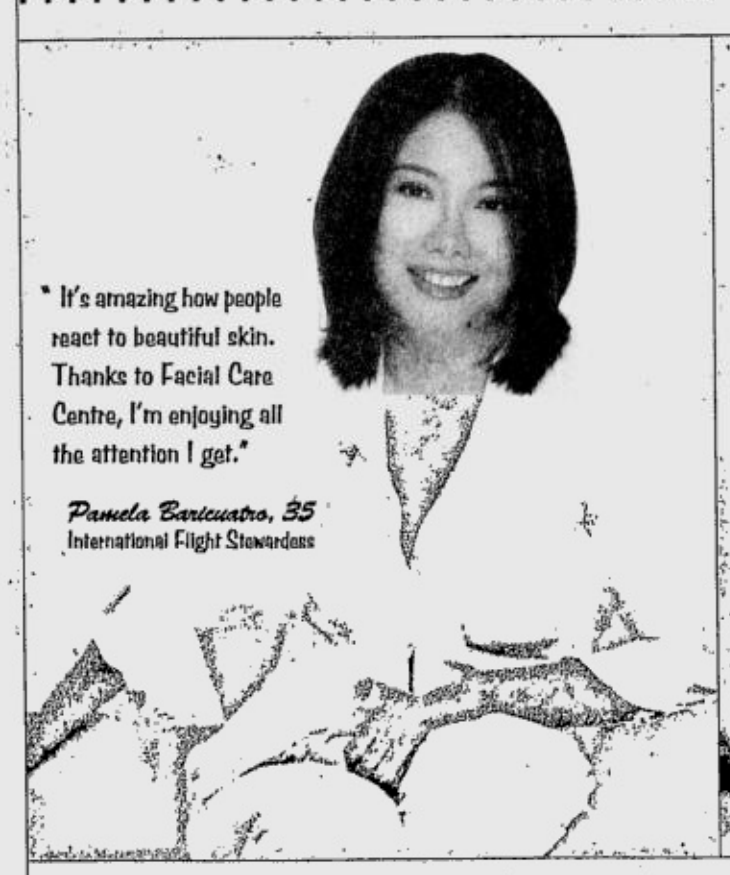

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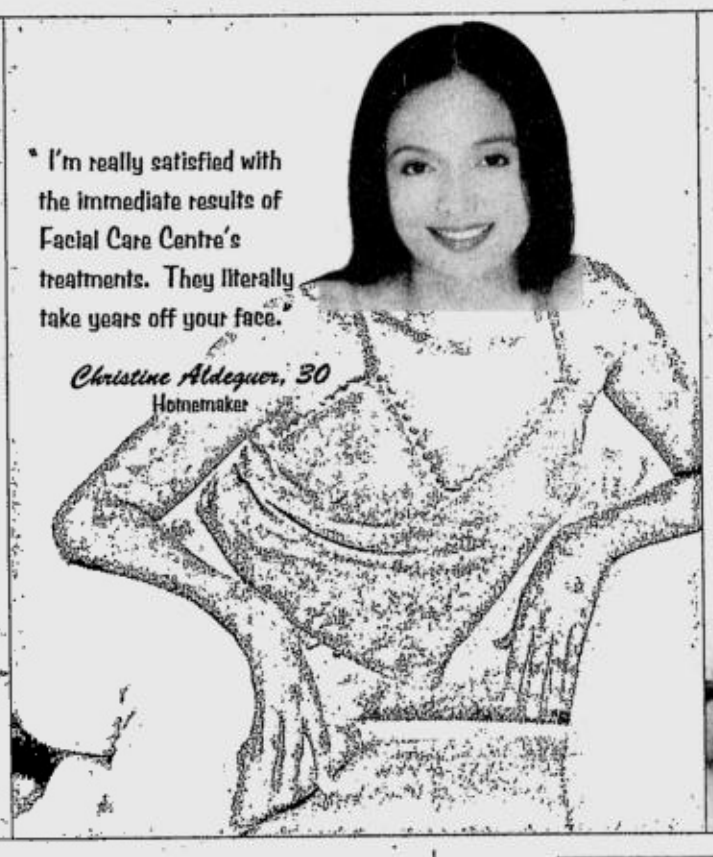

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# No lawyers for Lumbao

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PRELIMINARY investigation of the rebellion charges lodged against pro-Estrada leader Ronald Lumbao ended in a sour note yesterday after he showed up before the Department of Justice without his lawyers.

Angered by the sudden disappearance of Lumbao's lawyers, state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco was constrained to terminate the proceedings despite the protestation of Lumbao who, then accused the DOJ of railroading his case.

He is facing charges of instigating Estrada supporters to attack Malacañang on May 1 last year.

After government witnesses affirmed their affidavits, Velasco announced that the complaint for rebellion was deemed submitted for resolution.

Under the rules, the DOJ has 15 days after the preliminary investigation to resolve the complaint.

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MARGARITO TEVES AFFAIR

# 2 DAR execs face suspension

TWO agrarian reform officials responsible for the arrest last month of LandBank president Margarito Teves have been recommended for preventive suspension and administrative charges.

The recommendation came from Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza himself after he received the findings of the special committee he created to investigate Provincial Adjudicator Napoleon B. Baguilat and Legal Officer Benjamin Baui Jr.

Braganza made the recommendation to Malacañang in his June 18 report to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The investigative committee, headed by Assistant Secretary Roel Garcia, said it found a prima facie case against Baguilat for "oppression, grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty, and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service."

Baguilat, he said, was found to have exhibited "undue haste" in resolving the contempt petition filed by Nueva Ecija landowners against Teves over LandBank's refusal to P75 million in compensation for a 53-hectare property.

As the Region III Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicator, Baguilat ordered Teves' arrest and had him detained at the Manila police headquarters for 10 hours before he was allowed to post a P20,000 bail.

LandBank had since questioned Teves' arrest before the DAR Adjudication Board.

Baui, who entered into an agreement with the landowners in February 2001 to peg the amount of the compensation, was also held liable for his "failure to inform the DAR leadership (of) the prejudice it would cause the government and farmer-beneficiaries."

Among the errors cited by the Investigative Committee in Baguilat's arrest order were:

- Failure to follow the procedures laid down under rule 71 of the Rules of Court regarding contempt.
- Ordering the arrest of Teves notwithstanding the manifestation that an action was filed with the Special Agrarian Court for valuation of just compensation.
- Appearance of undue haste in resolving the Motion for Reconsideration filed by petitioners-landowners.
- Failure to declare Teves guilty of indirect contempt and why he was the proper party to be the subject of indirect contempt.

Baun, on the other hand, was found liable for "grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty, inefficiency and incompetence in the performance of official duty, and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service."

DAR said it was Baui who signed the Memorandum of Understanding used by Baguilat in rendering a decision that raised the value of rice land in Nueva Ecija from P3 million to P75 million.

The contested riceland, owned by the heirs of Basilio and Rosa Francisco, was placed under DAR coverage through Presidential Decree No. 27 sometime after its promulgation in 1972. ***Volt Contreras***

## *Tough time to be a leader, Gloria laments*

By Carlito Pablo

"THESE are difficult times for our country and they are difficult times for me as a leader," President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted Wednesday, after learning the results of the latest survey that showed her popularity had plunged because of the high cost of electricity.

The Social Weather Stations survey taken on May 17-June 3 showed that from a net satisfaction rating of +16 in March, the public's happiness with Ms Macapagal's performance fell sharply to +4, due to massive outrage over high power costs.

The President also said she was "very sad that public satisfaction with my administration is much lower today than it was two months ago."

The SWS attributed the steep drop "apparently... to public dismay over the increased electricity rates, reminiscent of the mid-1995 rice price crisis."

The SWS noted that in 1995, the net satisfaction rating of then President Fidel V. Ramos fell from +26 in June to +1 in October and +2 in December, after the price of rice rose sharply.

President Macapagal noted that Ramos' rating plunged more steeply than hers, "notwithstanding the small effect of one commodity—rice—on the overall inflation rate in 1995."

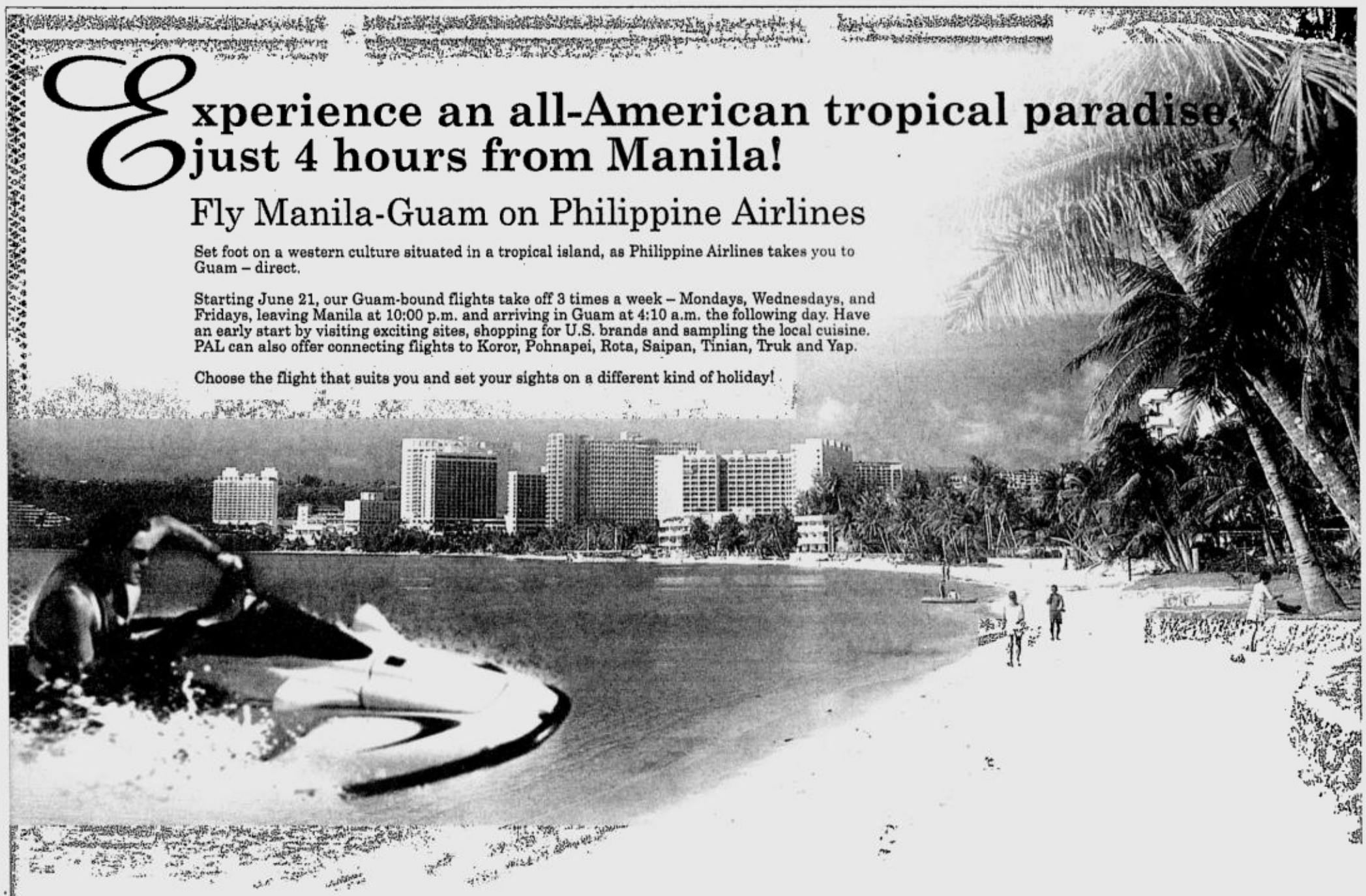
The President conceded "it is now clear the price of electricity is also a very socially sensitive issue."

In her speech before the Chinese-Filipino community Wednesday night, Ms Macapagal said that while "the price of electricity is not a problem of my making, I am doing my best within my powers to alleviate the situation."

The President recalled that she instructed the state-run National Power Corp. in May to reduce to 40 centavos its purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA).

"Because of this, from having the second most expensive electricity in the region, we will go down to number six after the PPCA reduction takes effect in your July billing," the President told the audience.

"Until then and even afterwards, I ask for your patience and understanding," she said. The President later handed out the Dr. Jose Rizal Awards for Excellence to recipients among members of the Chinese-Filipino community.

# Gokongwei in hot water for failure to disclose part in PLDT deal

By Elena R. Torrijos

TAIPAN John Gokongwei could be held liable for misstating his holding company's involvement in the joint venture with Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. to acquire a 24.4 percent stake in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Securities and Exchange Commission chair Lilia Bautista said yesterday the SEC will ask the Gokongwei family's JG Summit Holdings to explain why it should not be penalized for failing to disclose its involvement in the PLDT deal.

Bautista said that in a filing with the United States' SEC, First Pacific claimed the joint venture was between itself and the Gokongwei group, with the latter defined as including JG Summit Holdings.

However, on June 4, the day the memorandum of agreement was signed for the joint venture, JG Summit said it did not have information on the deal.

On June 6, Gokongwei himself wrote the SEC to say JG Summit was not involved in the transaction and the MOA was between himself in his personal capacity and First Pacific.

In a letter to JG Summit, to be delivered today, the SEC said: "The disclosure made by Mr. John Gokongwei cannot be taken as a report by JG Summit Holdings, in view of the fact that the same was submitted in his personal capacity with the denial of JG Summit's involvement in the transaction."

"For that, he (Gokongwei) may be held liable under Section 54 of the Securities Regulation Code," the letter said.

The letter also asked JG Summit to show cause why it should not be held liable "for failure to timely disclose sufficient information relative to subject transaction, which is clearly a material event that would reasonably be expected to affect investors' decisions with respect to JG Summit securities."

Under local SEC rules, disclosure should be made within five days after the occurrence of the material fact or event.

Bautista said the penalty for misrepresentation is a fine of at least P10,000 to as high as P5 million.

Gokongwei has teamed up with First Pacific to buy the controlling shares in PLDT from under the management group of Antonio Cojuangco and Manuel Pangilinan. The deal is expected to cost Gokongwei an initial $1 billion.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# Gonzales, 48

EDITHA A. Gonzales, younger sister of veteran sportswriter Ernie Gonzales, died yesterday after a lingering illness. She was 48.

Editha is survived by her mother Anacurita (Coring) Gonzales and brothers and sisters Ernie and Yolly, Eddie and Mina, Arnold and Auring (Baby), Lydia and Boy Velasco, Francis and Marie, Jun and Josie, Eric and Leng, Sonia and Leo Jimenez and Elmer and Jean.

Her remains, now lying at Chapel F. of the St. Peter Memorial Chapels along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, will be flown tomorrow to Legazpi City en route to Malilipot, Albay, where interment will take place on June 25.


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# AFP hatches plan to rescue seized Indon

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, the chief of the military's Southern Command, yesterday said the military has hatched a plan to free three kidnapped Indonesians who are being held by a group of armed men in Sulu.

He said the plan also involves preventing the kidnappers from linking up with other bandit groups like the Abu Sayyaf.

On Wednesday, Ferdinan Yoel, a fourth Indonesian captive who managed to escape, told reporters that it was the Abu Sayyaf, which abducted him and his three companions from a tugboat off Basilan island on Monday evening.

He said Hamsiraji Sali was leading the group.

The four were part of the 10-member crew of the SM88, a Singapore-registered vessel, which was on its way to Cebu to deliver coal to a cement factory.

The military said it was hard to conclude from Yoel's testimony that the kidnappers were Abu Sayyaf.

Carolina said the rescue plan would be carried out even as negotiations for the freedom of the hostages were going on.

Luuk municipal Mayor Abdurahman Arbison has reportedly been talking with relatives of the kidnappers.

Carolina admitted that some of those involved in the negotiations were Sali's relatives in Barangay Lahi-lahi.

The military suspects that the three captives were brought to the village.

Meanwhile, two soldiers involved in pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Zamboanga del Norte died after the vehicle they were riding on fell off a ravine in Barangay Licomo in Sirawai town on Wednesday morning.

Pfc. Alejandro Tolentino and Cpl. Glen Tamayo were assigned to the Army's 15th Scout Rangers Company. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# Abus behead 2 gov't informers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two headless bodies were separately recovered in Sumisip, Basilan, the past days.

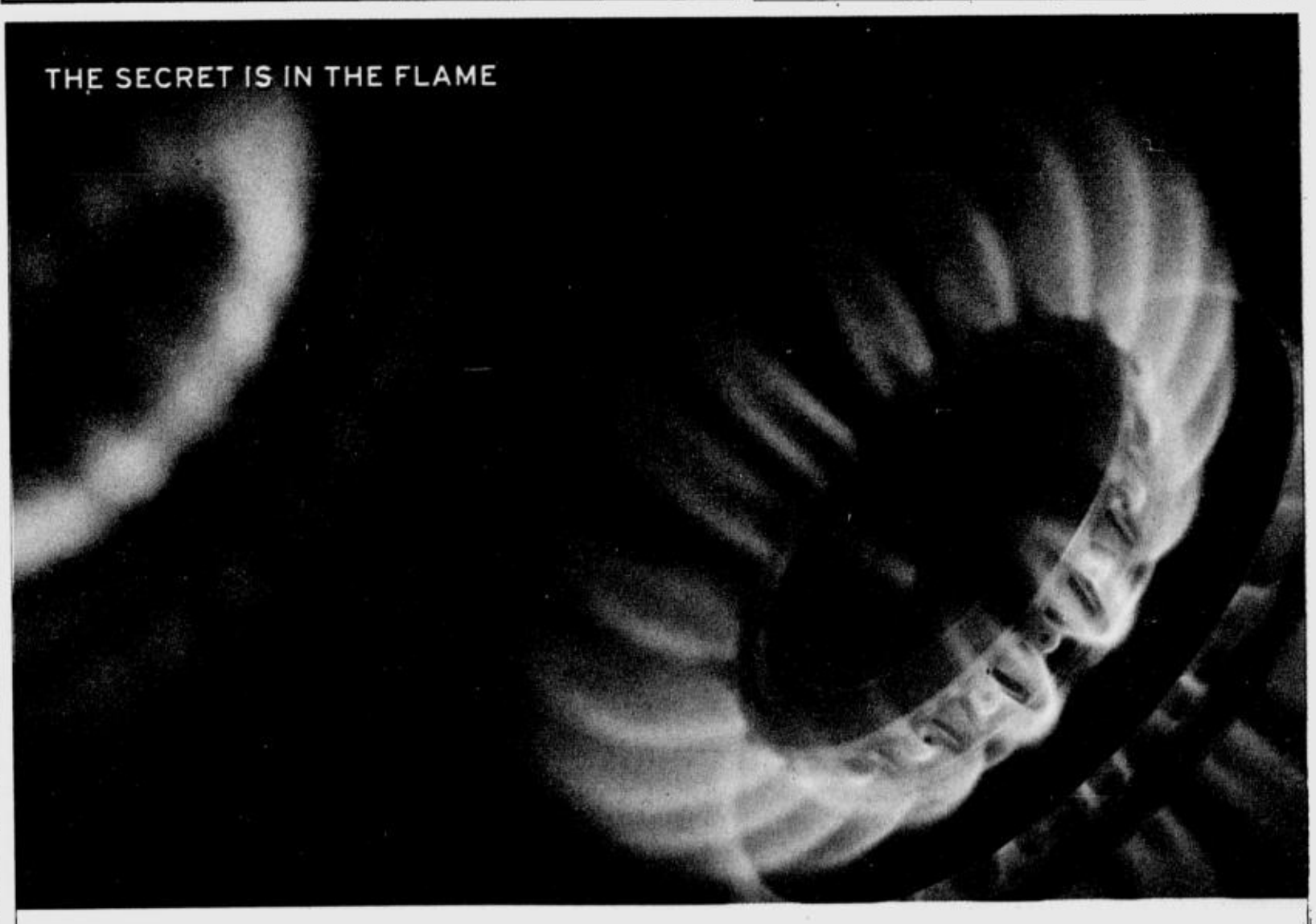
Col. Alexander Aleo, the 103rd Army Brigade commander, said one of the bodies belonged to Apelon Sahilin, 46, a resident of Barangay Cabcaban.

Sahilin was allegedly beheaded by Abu Sayyaf bandits on June 17.

"Until now we cannot find his head. Sahilin was suspected by the bandits as military agent," Aleo.

Aleo said based on the investigation conducted by the 32nd Infantry Battalion, Abu Sayyaf bandits Furuji and Samid Indama were behind the beheading.

Another headless body was found in Barangay Upper Baiwas, also in Sumisip, on Wednesday afternoon. The victim was identified as Asirin Adelon. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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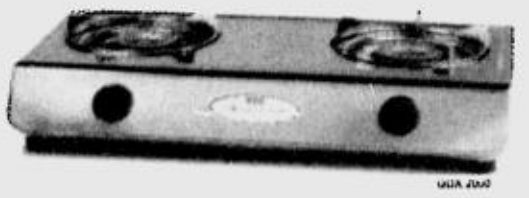

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# 7 Israelis killed in new suicide attack

From page A1

pation of our lands."

The statement was distributed Thursday by the official Palestinian news agency Wafa. In the past, Arafat has appeared before TV cameras to make similar appeals. A televised announcement would have a much wider reach among Palestinians than one distributed by Wafa.

Arafat said later Thursday he had called for an end to attacks on Israeli civilians "because we are against killing any civilians, whether Palestinians or Israelis."

But he said Israel, through its military actions, was "preventing all our efforts" to end the violence.

Arafat did not say how he would rein in the militias. Israel has accused him of doing nothing to stop attacks or even of encouraging them.

### Hamas won't stop

The Islamic militant group Hamas said it would not stop the bombings.

"If we have an effective weapon in our hands and the whole world is trying to take it off us, this kind of reaction shows it to be the most effective way," said Ismail Abu Shanab, a Hamas spokesperson in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas claimed responsibility for an attack Tuesday on a Jerusalem bus that killed 19 Israelis.

Sharon postponed a speech to an annual gathering diaspora of Jewish delegates holding a three-day Zionist Congress in Jerusalem, to inspect the scene of that blast. On Thursday, he delivered his speech and spoke about receiving the "difficult message."

"This is the worst moment and the loneliest moment. When I get this terrible news, silence hangs in the air," Sharon told the Zionist Congress.

A bombing Wednesday at a Jerusalem bus stop killed seven Israelis, including a 59-year-old grandmother and her 5-year-old granddaughter. Arabic television channels reported conflicting responsibility claims, and it wasn't clear who was behind the blast.

The bomb wrecked the bus stop and left the wide street littered with personal belongings and body parts. Rescue workers covered an overturned baby carriage with black plastic sheeting.

Yaacov Ben Yehuda, 36, a teacher who moved to Israel from San Diego, Calif. five years ago, was hitchhiking home to Ofra, a West Bank Jewish settlement 30 km from the intersection. He was looking for a car to stop for him and didn't see the bomber.

"When I heard the boom, I turned toward the sound," he said.

"Then I realized it was a bombing. There is blood on my feet and the back of my shorts. My pants are covered with other people's blood. It is too gross to think about."

### Israeli response

In response, Israeli forces moved into Bethlehem and the nearby Dheisheh refugee camp, declaring a curfew and taking over controlling positions in the town, the military said.

Also, troops moved into Beitunia, a suburb of Ramallah, and searched for suspects. The statement said soldiers would remain in the two locations "until the mission's goals are accomplished."

Beitunia residents were ordered over loudspeakers to stay in their homes. Three armored personnel carriers, a tank and a military jeep were parked outside a five-floor building, one of three positions taken over by the Israeli army. Building residents peered out from their windows.

Israeli troops were in control of two other towns, Jenin and Qalqiliya, setting up command posts and enforcing curfews, an example of the new Israeli policy.

In the Jenin camp, troops rounded up about 2,500 boys and men between the ages of 15 and 50 on Wednesday and took them in buses to a nearby army camp for questioning. About 1,000 men were released overnight, said Mohammed Ballas, a Palestinian journalist who was among those rounded up.

Israeli helicopters and warplanes also pounded Palestinian buildings in the Gaza Strip, wounding 13 Palestinians.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said the delay in Bush's widely anticipated policy statement "might give Sharon the green light to continue with his destruction of the Palestinian Authority and the infrastructure of the Palestinian community."

Sharon never explained publicly how far Israel would go in the planned reoccupation of Palestinian areas—whether troops would seize entire towns or set up new positions on the outskirts of population centers.

### Disagreement

Ben-Eliezer said he was "completely against all permanent seizure of territories—I didn't agree in any forum to punitive occupation."

"When you speak of occupation, the meaning is that you start dealing with everything from health to sewage. That's not the intention. The intention is a presence on the ground in light of the present reality . . . for as much time is necessary," Ben-Eliezer told Israel Radio. *AP*


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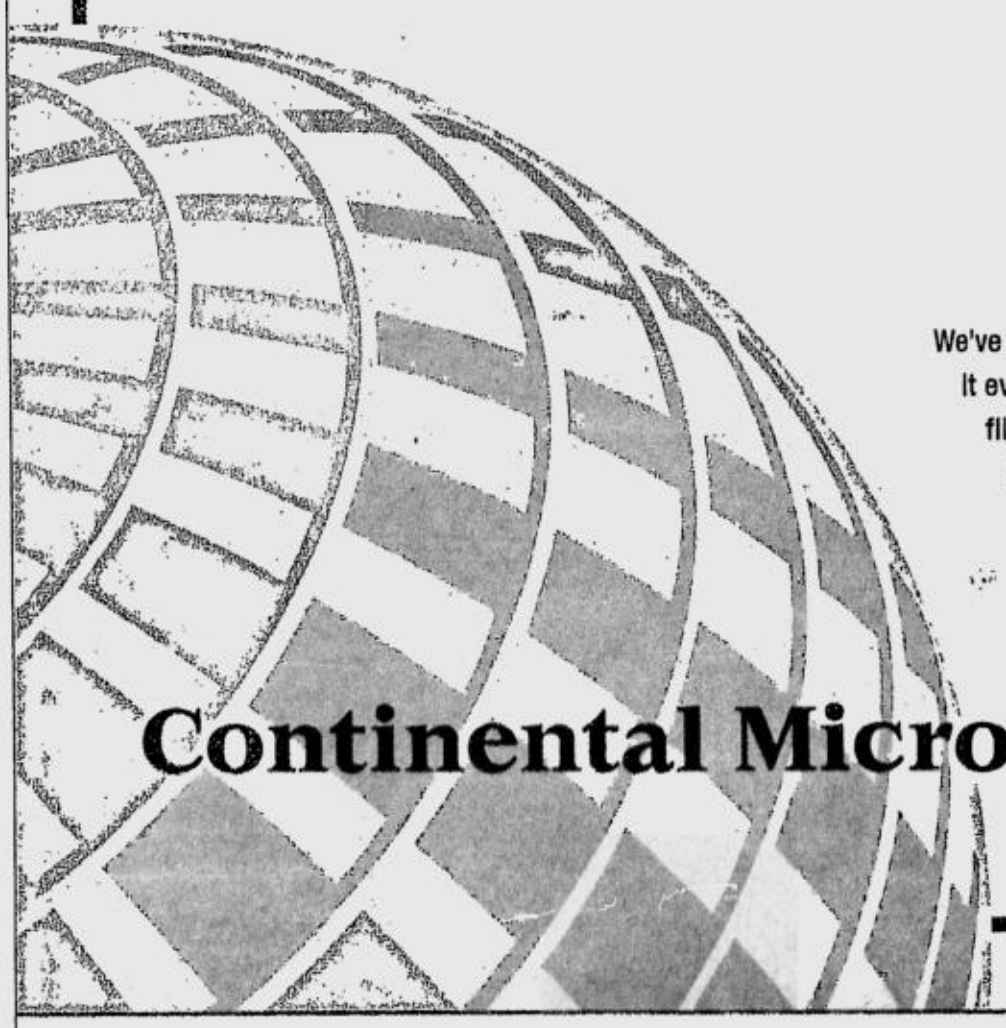

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# Revilla back

## *2 senators leaving opposition–Barbers*

By Cynthia Balana

From page A1

his arrival, when former Gov. Bong Revilla informed him. "There is more than one month before the opening of Congress so there is no need for us in the administration bloc to bring back Senator Revilla so soon," Drilon said.

"It was the sole decision of Senator Revilla and his family," he added.

Revilla himself wasted no time making his position clear. He said he was sticking it out with the administration coalition and promised President Macapagal-Arroyo he won't jump ship.

"I would not leave Lakas. Not at this time," Revilla said.

From the airport, the Revillas proceeded to their house in Imus, Cavite, where a welcome party was organized by relatives and local politicians. A member of his Senate staff said Revilla had insisted on coming home, saying he was already bored in the United States.

But he also said he wanted to come home because of the Senate impasse. But the Revilla family said the senator would not be attending any caucuses anytime soon, because he needed to rest.

"If ever I switched places before when the opposition had the numbers, I believe that that would not happen again. This is a critical time and is important that I stay with Lakas," Revilla said later in a radio interview.

### Volleyball diplomacy

Other senators went to great lengths to reach out to the other side.

In administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan's case, he literally joined the other side—at least on the volleyball court. In the Senate sportsfest held yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Complex, Pangilinan powered a team that was composed mostly of staff members working for opposition Senators Edgardo Angara, Vicente Sotto III, Blas Ople, Robert Jaworski, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Rodolfo Biazon.

The lanky 6-footer, who played in the collegiate ranks, led the so-called Senate Proper team past the Senate Secretariat, 25-18, 22-25, 25-22, in the inaugural game.

"Politics was never a problem, never discussed, never talked about," said Marcial Reyes of Angara's staff, a member of the Senate Proper's first six.

Glenda Olid, assistant team coach and media relations officer of Biazon, said Pangilinan "did not show any animosity toward any of the staff of opposition senators."

### Biazon's gesture

In Baguio City on Wednesday, Biazon also made a gesture of reconciliatjon. He told reporters that the senators had agreed to end their squabble before July 22, the start of the second regular session of the 12th Congress, to avoid a potentially bigger public backlash.

"All 24 members of the chamber are considering all possible solutions, so that on or before July 22, we will have resolved the impasse. All of us realize that the people will not forgive us, if this impasse is not broken before July 22 . . . when we are supposed to have started working again," he said at a press briefing.

The alternative is a stalemate that will paralyze Congress next month, he said. "I assure you this impasse will be broken one way or the other," he said.

But Biazon said the agreement had not stopped both camps in the Senate from pursuing "poaching raids" on each other.

"Courting and counter-courting (potential party recruits) are a tool in politics. Anybody who tells you courting is not happening is lying," he said. "And do not think that this courting and counter-courting are focused on an individual. No. They court most of us, we court most of them."

In fact, Biazon said, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino had allowed its members free rein on "conscience-led decisions," despite the senators' recruitment expeditions.

He said this was the same party principle which allowed him to oppose President Joseph Estrada during the impeachment trial without suffering reprisals from the LDP. The LDP, led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, then Estrada's executive secretary, supported the former President throughout the aborted trial. "My party allows me independence of mind, because that is a basic and fundamental issue. And I am not going to allow anyone to encroach upon my judgment as a human being, as one who fought for this country for so long," Biazon said.

### Joker's lament

But maverick Sen. Joker Arroyo continued to take a combative stance, saying Revilla had come home ahead of time to put an end to the "political zarzuela" in the Senate.

With Revilla's return, Arroyo said, the Senate was back to the "status quo ante"—the state of the Senate before the opposition coup.

"But the damage has been done," he said. "It is a damaged Senate in the eyes of the people, brought about by the crass opportunism of the opposition leadership who, taking immoral advantage of the absence of an ailing colleague nonsensically moved for a half-baked reorganization," Arroyo said.

He insisted that nothing good was achieved by the opposition in taking over the committee chairmanships and appointing new officers of the Senate after the session was already adjourned sine die by Drilon.

He said Senators Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan were right in saying that at the rate senators were going, "we are to witness the gory spectacle that every time session opens, the opposition would look around, count heads, and finding temporary numerical advantage, will move for a reorganization."

"That could happen every day. We would have a most unruly and unstable Senate." ***With reports from Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

count would still be 12-12 when session resumes.

He also assured the people that there will be no constitutional crisis in the Senate, because the opposition will still support administration bills that he described as propeople.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel admitted that the opposition cannot replace Senate President Franklin Drilon, but neither can the Drilon bloc change what the opposition did from June 3 to 7, during the three-day session conducted by the opposition and presided by Sen. Blas Ople.

"We will still prevail because the Senate President can only vote if it would be decisive," Pimentel said. "It can't be undone. They need more than 12 to undo it."

But Drilon disputed the claim that the Senate President can vote only in case of a tie. "That is a gross misreading of the Rules of the Senate," Drilon pointed out. "There is nothing in our rules that prohibits the Senate President from voting."


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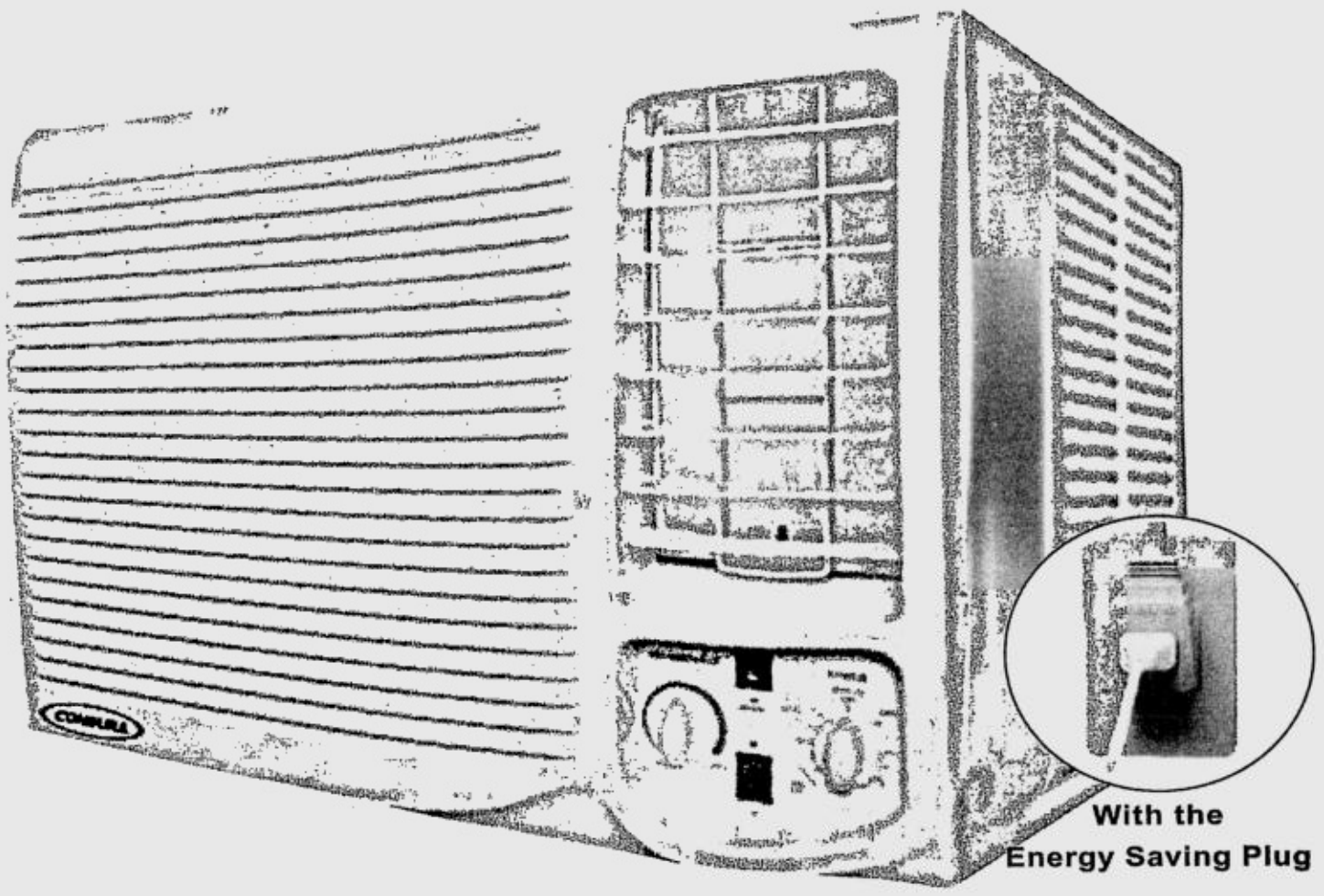

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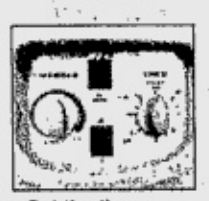

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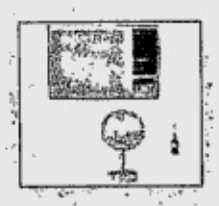

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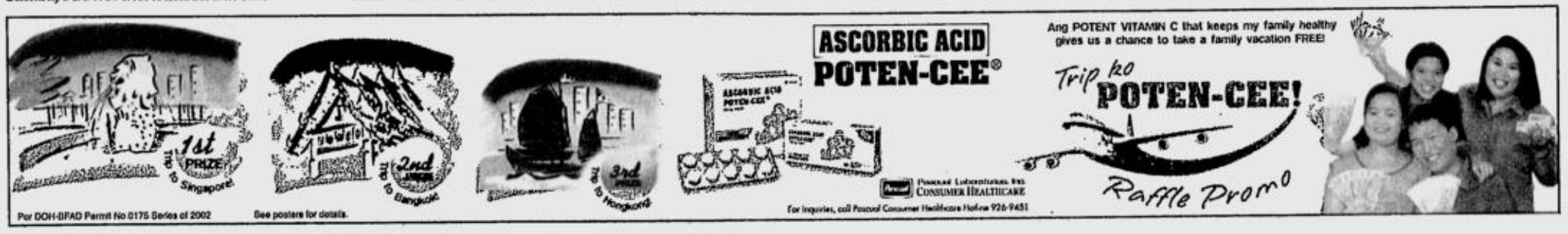

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*Founding Chairman*

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# OPINION

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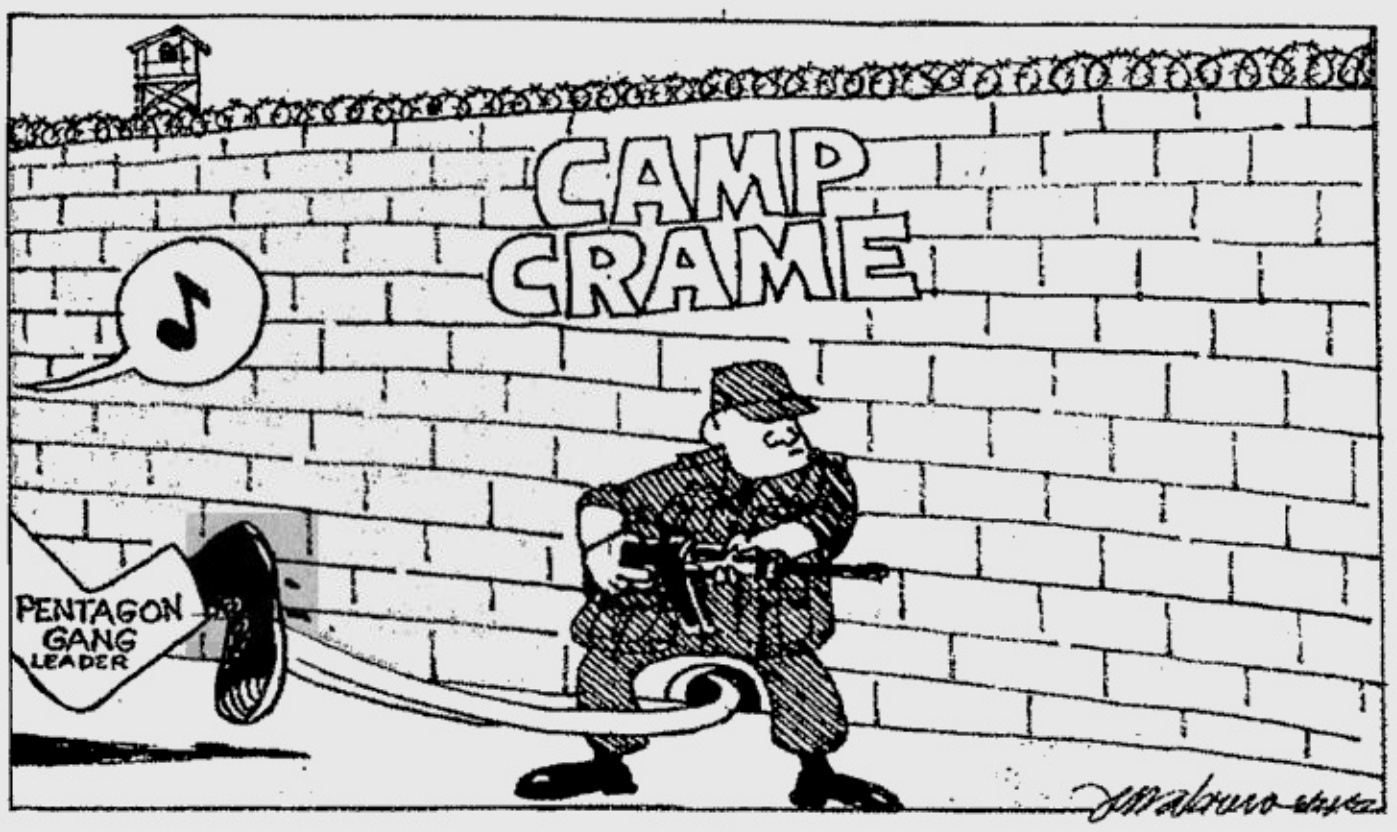


# Dance of death

DID Ruben Ecleo Jr., the suspected murderer of his own wife, perhaps strum his guitar while his followers were dying? Until the mantle of leadership of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) fell on his shoulders with the death of his father in 1987, Ruben Ecleo's ambition was to join a band, which had been hired to play in Hong Kong. If he played his guitar while his fanatical followers fought the police to stop his arrest, it shouldn't exactly come as a surprise to anyone. He would have been acting true to his character.

**EDITORIAL**

This is not to say that guitarists are off their rockers. But this particular guitar player looks like he is.

Ecleo stands accused of strangling to death his wife Alona in their house in Cebu City last Jan. 5. Her body was found two days later inside a garbage bag that had been dumped in a ravine in the town of Dalaguete, some 85 kilometers away from the city. By then, Ecleo himself had vanished, gone it was believed to his native Dinagat Island in Surigao where the PBMA counts tens of thousands of followers.

A warrant for his arrest was issued by Judge Galicano Arriesgado of the Cebu Regional Trial Court on April 24, but it could not be served, as Ecleo continued to hide and his mother, Rep. Glenda Ecleo, kept making—and breaking—promises to persuade him to surrender. Meanwhile, thousands of cultists gathered near the Ecleo mansion, vowing to fight to the death any attempt to take him away.

On Tuesday, when scores of policemen and soldiers, backed by two tanks and two helicopter gunships, went to his family's mansion in San Jose, Surigao del Norte, to effect his arrest, Ecleo was seen dancing and virtually daring the law enforcers to come and get him. It turned out to be a dance of death—not for Ecleo but for 19 of his followers and one policeman.

As the police tell it, Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, director of the Caraga regional police, was still urging Ecleo to give up late in the afternoon of Tuesday when his followers opened fire at the arresting team with machine guns, Ingram automatic pistols and M-14 and M-16 assault rifles. As the battle raged, PBMA members were also reported to have lobbed hand grenades. But in the end, it was the cult that suffered the most casualties. Ecleo himself surrendered the morning after the bloodbath, apparently upon the instruction of his mother who had earlier claimed she had lost control over her own son.

What could have driven Ecleo to such bizarre behavior as taunting the police and sending his followers into a suicidal combat with a vastly superior force? Drugs is probably one reason. He has tested positive for shabu, according to the police.

Another possible reason is that he is drunk with power. With the PBMA counting members in the hundreds of thousands, they are practically invincible in their own turf and their support is assiduously sought by other politicians. And he has seen how power works, with his own mother able to hold off for months something as basic as the enforcement of a lawful order. In addition, he had fanatical followers who were ready and willing to lay down their lives to protect him. All this must have convinced him that he was above the law and beyond the reach of the courts and our law enforcement agencies.

So unless it can be shown that the arresting team used excessive force, Ecleo must bear all the blame for the carnage on Dinagat. Afraid to face murder charges, he used his followers to shield him from the law and sent 19 of them to their deaths.

Now he is justifying his defiance of lawful authority by saying it was his followers who kept him from surrendering when the lawmen came calling. But he is their "divine master," and they worship at his feet. In fact as he was being led away from his mansion, his followers dropped to their knees in adoration. Could such people have even thought of contradicting him or acting against his wishes?

Ecleo must answer for every death on Dinagat last Tuesday as well as for the death of his wife. And he must also explain how on the same night a PBMA member massacred three other members of his wife's family in Cebu. (His mother also has a lot of explaining to do.)

Has he perhaps ordered his followers to bring the fight to his enemies? It's a chilling thought, given how many members and chapters the PBMA has all over the county and the firepower they displayed on Dinagat. The authorities had better keep a watchful eye on them. Their tiny payer books and amulets may have failed them, but there is no sign that their faith in their "divine master" is wavering or that they are ready to disobey his commands.

# Transco vs Meralco on PPA issue

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

JUST to set the record straight, the "Panday vs. Pandak" joke was not invented by the INQUIRER headline writer: It was originated by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago about a year ago. Nobody complained then.

* * *

**Having Fernando Poe Jr. as the opposition presidential candidate is really the nightmare of the administration camp. In fact, some administration strategists are already toying with the idea of fielding Dolphy as its standard-bearer if FPJ succumbs to entreaties and throws his hat into the ring. It will be the "King of Action vs. the King of Comedy" in 2004. Luckily, the two kings still have their good sense around them.**

* * *

Here's another nightmare: Just to keep Sen. Ramon Revilla in the administration fold, a senatorial slot in 2004 has been promised to his son Bong Revilla. Academic credentials are not a requirement to qualify for Congress or for the presidency. Erap is a college dropout but Bong is a high school dropout. We'll have a three-man family affair in the Committee on Silence (or at least two; the senior Revilla is bowing out in 2004): the Revillas plus son-in-law Robert Jaworski.

The era of the great senators like the Rectos, Laurels, Tañadas and Dioknos is definitely over. It is now the era of show biz.

* * *

**But like all other fads, that, too, will pass. We are just following the footsteps of India which has a bigger movie industry and a bigger poor and squatter population than the Philippines. Movie stars were their heroes just like here, whom they believe would deliver them from their poverty as they always did in their movies. They voted actors and actresses into their government in herds.**

**Many Indians are still as poor as mice and they have realized that their dream of deliverance by their show-biz heroes was a mirage. They have now voted the show-biz folk out of government. I believe that's what is going to happen here, too.**

* * *

The Napocor subsidiary National Transmission Co. (Transco) is disputing Meralco's propaganda line that power rates are high because Napocor generation rates are high compared to those of independent power producers (IPPs). Meralco said it buys electricity from its two subsidiaries, Quezon Power and First Gas, at P3.80 and P3.40 per kWh respectively, as compared to Napocor's P4.20 per kWh. If these two IPPs were allowed to generate more power, said Meralco, electricity would be cheaper. And if the Meralco subsidy to consumers outside its franchise area in Luzon and to Visayas and Mindanao were removed, power rates for Meralco consumers would be cheaper by at least P1 per kWh. (As I See It, 6/3, 6/02) Translated, this means that Meralco consumers are paying 40 centavos for each kWh that people in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao consume—in addition to what they (the Meralco consumers) already pay for their own consumption. Remove this subsidy, Meralco said, and the electric bills of Meralco consumers would be lower.

Transco does not agree. "Meralco is fudging the figures to deceive the public," said Transco president Asisclio Gonzaga. Meralco's claimed rates of P3.80 and P3.40 per kWh "are based on an optimum plant utilization and therefore carry only PPA (purchased power adjustment) for fuel and foreign currency. At that rate of plant utilization, the resulting price would therefore not include costs for underutilization or minimum off-take." (Isn't that what Meralco said in a different but clearer way?—**NHC**)

Let's try to make it clearer: The law of supply and demand says that if there is an oversupply and less demand for any product, prices should go down. We currently have a 25-percent oversupply of generation capacity. So why is the price of electricity going up instead of down?

Because in the contracts with the IPPs, the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos guaranteed the payment, at a fixed rate, for all the generating capacity of the IPPs even if not used—or even if not generated at all. So we, the consumers, are being charged not only for the electricity we consumed but also, for the electricity we did not use and even electricity the IPPs did not generate. That's the PPA.

What Meralco is saying is that if its subsidiaries were allowed to generate more electricity, its consumers don't have to pay for these extras. They will pay only for the electricity that they actually consumed.

The trouble is that even if the IPPs generated more electricity, Napocor's transmission lines cannot carry all the load. In short, Ramos kept signing IPP contracts knowing fully well that Napocor transmission lines cannot carry all the generated electricity to the distributors. This, Transco's Gonzaga did not explain in his press statement.

Gonzaga said Napocor's own power plants are not operating at optimum capacity. So rather than transmit the generated power of the IPPs, Transco transmits Napocor's generated power first before those of the IPPs, thus limiting the production of these IPPs.

Our power problem can be compared to what is happening on our roads every day. There are too many vehicles for the too few roads. So the vehicles—like the generated electricity—cannot move quickly through the roads. The vehicles waste fuel and we are all paying for that, too.

# Let sleeping dogs lie

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

A FRIEND of mine who is now a mayor in a small town in the south told me this story. He had no intention of running for mayor in 1998. He had been mayor before for three terms in his hometown during the '70s and '80s, but being a fairly honest sort, had not made enough money to provide for a growing family. He decided instead to work for an oil firm in Indonesia, and made a small fortune there. After his contract expired, he went back to his hometown to retire.

The incumbent mayor took that as a sign that he was planning to run again. Despite his protestations, the mayor kept telling everyone that he was going to run, and went on to warn *alalays* in not very peaceable terms against flying to his side. Indeed, the incumbent mayor went on to besmirch his character at every turn, in an effort to nip his presumed ambitions in the bud.

"There I was, living in peace, trying to enjoy the fruits of my OFW labor. And this man would not leave me alone." In exasperation, and egged on in no small way by supporters themselves of the mayor who had become disillusioned with him, he gave in and did run. And won.

Much to his regret. "Maybe I should have exercised more forbearance," he said.

It's a cautionary tale for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's advisers. They would be well advised to take Fernando Poe Jr. at his word when he says he is not going to run for president, and shut up. Certainly, they would be well advised ***not*** to harp on his lack of experience, intellectual endowments and ability to win against someone like GMA. They keep doing that, and they may just rile him enough to run.

That is how they've responded to news of FPJ running. It is "an act of desperation" by the opposition, says Rep. Raul Gonzalez. "Anybody can be a threat, but if FPJ will run for president, I might as well run for president." "As if we have not learned our lessons from Erap," says Rep. Rodolfo Albano. "Why let another movie star run for the position? Poe might be good for the movies, but he knows nothing about public administration and management." "I cannot see any potential contender against GMA," says Gov. Faustino Dy. "And we have to see if the political machinery of the would-be opposition candidate can sustain a nationwide campaign."

If these comments show anything, it is only that their authors will remain small-time politicians. They have no understanding of the forces at work in this country and have absolutely no feel of the public pulse. I can at least assure Gonzalez that FPJ has better chances of winning if he runs for president of the Philippines than he has of winning if he runs for janitor of Tawi-Tawi. FPJ rings a bell, RG (or even GMA) rings only around the roses, a pocketful of posies. As machinery goes, you cannot have a more awesome machinery than the one put up by Ramon Mitra in 1992 and Jose de Venecia in 1998. Machineries put up by the party in power, oiled by many years of plunder, and run by well-paid wards at grass-roots level. What happened? Mitra and De Venecia did not just lose, they lost badly.

What has been clearer than day for the last 10 years is that popularity and not machinery will win the day for candidates. The last elections did not disprove that, contrary to claims by GMA's advisers that the days of the movie star are over, the voters have wised up and rejected them. At the very least, that is because some movie stars won in those elections while others lost. At the very most, that is because all it proved is that popularity is not the decisive element only at the local level. At the local level, guns, goons and gold—the last outstripping the first two in importance over the last 10 years—remain the decisive element. Not so at the national level. I said then and say now that if Rudy Fernandez had run for senator instead of mayor of Quezon City last year, he probably would have won.

The idea that Filipinos have learned from the mess Erap made of the country is an arguable one. I've always thought it took two to teach a lesson in history, one to make a mess of things and another to undo it. If the one who succeeds merely repeats the mistakes of her predecessor, there is no lesson taught, or learned. That was what I said about Cory Aquino then. The Marcoses came back not just because they had good lawyers but because they had a successor who never showed the nation what it meant to be freed from big-time larceny. That is what I say about Ms Macapagal now: Erap will come back not just because he has good lawyers but because he has a successor who has not shown the nation what it means to be freed from show-biz politics.

Any self-respecting schoolteacher will tell you that the most effective way to teach a lesson is by way of contrast, by showing the good and the bad, the right and the wrong. You have no contrast, you have no lesson.

What lessons will the voters have learned from Ms Macapagal to find their way to renouncing Erap—or his surrogates—once and for all? That we are better off with people who join struggles only when it is safe to do so in lieu of tyrants? That we are better off with people who call themselves Ina ng Bayan instead of those who call themselves Ama ng Masa? That we are better off with people who put their faces in P200 bills and campaign for another term from dawn till dusk in lieu of people who hide their faces from visitors in the daytime after drinking themselves silly from dusk till dawn?

I would most seriously urge GMA's advisers, for the sake of the nation, to just hook their thumbs around the edges of their front pockets, stoop slightly and while bobbing their heads up and down tell FPJ, "*Dispensa na, erap, pero wag ka lang tumakbo, please?*"

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

# Satisfaction rates and electricity

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

PUBLIC unrest, fueled by high electricity prices, has sent President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's net satisfaction rating plummeting to +4 percent in May 2002 from +16 last March.

The Social Weather Stations survey for May 17-June 3, 2002, attributed the slump mainly to an economic cause—the electricity rates that slugged the public through the controversial purchased power adjustment (PPA) levied by the National Power Corp. and Meralco.

The survey sends the message that the public is dissatisfied with the President's incapacity to roll back the electricity prices. This is revealed in the finding that 49 percent of the respondents said it was not within the power of the President to restrain the rise of electricity prices, with 33 percent saying it can somewhat be restrained.

The survey found that as many people (54 percent) followed closely the news on the electricity rates as there were who followed the trial of former President Joseph Estrada on plunder charges at the Sandiganbayan.

The decline of her satisfaction rating should worry President Macapagal at a time when she is just consolidating the political stability of her government, but it is best to determine whether the drop is driven by economic or political events. To determine this, it is necessary to examine the historical data of the rise and fall of presidential satisfaction ratings from President Aquino to President Ramos, then to Estrada. Presidential ratings have never been constant and subject to ups and downs.

As pointed out by the SWS, the net rating of President Ramos plunged sharply from +26 in June 1995 to +1 in October 1995, due to the increase in rice prices, indicating that rice was a politically sensitive issue.

The fresh SWS survey confirms energy prices are similarly politically sensitive, and this should be a wake-up call to President Macapagal that she should change the public perception of presidential impotence in halting the rise of electricity prices.

While politically worrisome, the slump of President Macapagal's rating is not as catastrophic as that of President Estrada from October 1999 to December 2000. A comparison of ratings of the two presidents can illustrate the contrast.

Estrada started his term in July 1998 with a high satisfaction rating (+60). Presidents Aquino and Ramos also had plus-60 ratings in the first quarter of their administrations, indicating they were bathing from public euphoria over change in government and enjoying high legitimacy from elections. In the first quarter rating of President Macapagal, she polled a net satisfaction rating of +24. This may be explained by the fact that she succeeded to the presidency not through an election but through people power, legitimized by Supreme Court decisions. Her succession was clouded by challenges over her legitimacy, springing from the refusal of Estrada to hand in a resignation.

Estrada's ratings peaked at +67 percent in March 1999, then dropped to +29 in October 1999. His ratings tumbled to +5 in December and March 2000, following dissatisfaction over the erratic way he was running the government and growing reports of corruption. His ratings recovered to +19 in September, reflecting wide popularity of his "all-out" war on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, culminating in the capture of 45 MILF camps in central Mindanao. But the gains were wiped out by the explosion of the exposé on the *jueteng* corruption by former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in October 2000. From that benchmark, his ratings plunged downhill irreversibly, until he was ousted in January 2001.

The fall of Estrada's ratings was driven mainly by political events centered on corruption and governance issues, crystallized by his impeachment trial. Economic variables were secondary to the political variables. Although the economy deteriorated as a result of political instability and the loss of public and business confidence in the Estrada administration, political crisis was the motor for the rapid erosion of his satisfaction rating.

In the case of President Macapagal, the plunge of her rating, which at its peak was relatively much lower than that of Estrada or even Aquino and Ramos, can be attributed to economic factors. There has been no major corruption scandal during her administration, although determined attempts were made by the political opposition to link her to controversial transactions allegedly intermediated by her husband, Mike Arroyo.

The nature of criticism on President Macapagal has stemmed from a combination of factors including politicking for the 2004 election, weak political control reflected by the recurrence of reports on coup conspiracies and negligible results in poverty alleviation. From +24 in March 2001, her net satisfaction rating dropped to +15 in September 2001, then rose to +16 in March 2002. From March, it slumped sharply to +4 last May.

If electricity prices, as an economic factor, is mainly responsible for the slump, the administration's move to halt the decline has to be directed at alleviating the economic distress of the people. There are increasing signs that economic recovery is firming up, but whether the rebound can be sustained in the intermediate term still remains to be seen. Apparently, recovery is taking place despite the instability in the political sector represented by the paralyzing impasse in the Senate. This indicates that the economy is acting autonomously relative to political disturbances, and that it has a life of its own.

# A new look at the poor

**COMMENTARY**

*Denis Murphy*

AN URBAN poor study made by the Ateneo's Institute of Philippine Culture reveals the outlines of an independent, hard-working, self-reliant and strong people, as different from the usual stereotypes people have of the poor as night is from day.

The area studied was Baseco, a community of about 6,000 families at the mouth of the Pasig River. Payatas in Quezon City was also studied and the results seem to be similar.

The poor are, the study finds, a people longing for work. Unemployed men have literally gone crazy because they couldn't support their families. The poor live in terrible conditions, but don't blame God, other persons or any "system" for their problems. They want respect as much as land. There are drug addicts, male and female prostitutes, thieves, wife beaters, but there are also children who want to be doctors, teachers and policemen; there are chapel committees, daycare centers and self-help groups. The people are squatters but they are willing to pay what they can for any land or housing they can get.

The urban poor are, in short, a people the government can work with. The pity is that the government hasn't had the trust or patience to do this, or the government hasn't seen the need, though the government alone cannot remove poverty. A shaky, poor government cannot lift millions of poor people out of poverty without the people's full cooperation. It's the difference between lifting a deadweight 50-kilo sack of rice and a beautiful ballerina who leaps into the male dancer's arms.

**Jobs.** A hunger for work runs through the study. When people are asked what are the three big problems, they always place jobs or employment as one of them, along with flooding and problems of land and housing. When they are asked what the government at all levels should do, the consistent request is for jobs, or help in starting small businesses.

When asked about the cause of poverty, they answer "no job," "no income." They don't ask, "why are there no jobs?"

The people are aware they lack education and other qualifications needed to get jobs, and Muslims say they are discriminated against when they try to get jobs.

People will do anything to earn a few pesos. The writer has watched men carry hundred-pound weights of pig slop along broken stone breakwaters, where even without a load it's hard to walk. Others, men and women, are scavengers, working 12 hours a day moving from garbage pile to garbage pile in the scalding heat. Some young men go into prostitution though they detest it. Their companions seem to understand.

**Not handouts.** In the study there is no request for doles. They do not ask the government to lower water rates; they only ask that they pay what everyone in the city pays and no more. They are prepared to pay for land, housing, schooling, medicines, as long as they can afford them.

**God's role.** "Does God will poverty?" the survey asked. Or "Does He want people to struggle to escape from poverty?" Overwhelmingly (2:1) the people say God doesn't will people to poverty and in fact wants people to struggle to get out of it. Not long ago the Church, at least at the popular level, often taught that if people were poor it was God's will, but if they bore their poverty, there would be a big reward in heaven.

The Baseco people don't believe that. They don't blame God. They blame themselves (we are poor because we have no job, no education). They don't blame the rich or the government. They take full responsibility. Perhaps too much so.

Perhaps they do this to an excess. Shouldn't they ask, why aren't there jobs? Why aren't there schools, for example? They should, but where are the people who are going to help them pose the questions? Most of the activists, ideologues, Church people and others who raised these issues once upon a time are no longer around.

**The future dark.** Perhaps the most dramatic figures to come out of the study concern the narrowing of the gap that divides rich and poor.

Just over 70 percent (47 out of 66) of the respondents said they expect the gap to widen in the future.

A follow-up question was: If the gap doesn't narrow, do you think there will be problems? Here, 80 percent said there will be problems.

They tend to be more optimistic about their individual family prospects, but when they think about the country as a whole, they are very pessimistic. Politicians and corruption are the main problems seen.

They don't hate the rich, at least most don't. They believe the rich are a mixed lot, some good, some bad like people everywhere. They don't hate anyone.

**Respect.** President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed that all of Baseco be used for the homes of the poor while President Joseph Estrada did nothing specific for Baseco, but people still prefer him as president (2:1). They like his style and believe he treated them as equals and with respect. They are not sure about President Macapagal. Respect is as important as concrete help.

One clear conclusion of the research is that to channel anti-poverty efforts through government conduits alone seems a good example of the Gospel's warning not to pour "new wine into old wineskins." The people are willing and able to participate in all the decisions that affect their lives.

*Denis Murphy works for the Urban Poor Associates.*

# Wrath of God

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

IT took over six months from the time the body of Alona Bacolod-Ecleo was discovered, to the time her husband, Ruben Ecleo Jr., the prime suspect in her killing, was arrested.

But between these two events lie a string of miscues, missteps, endless negotiations, and in the last few days, the deaths of 25 people. How will it end? Nobody knows for sure. In this country where everything can be finessed, even the workings of the criminal justice system, not even the fact that Ecleo is under the custody of national police authorities can guarantee that justice will be done.

At this point, we aren't even sure if Ecleo will stand trial for the murder of Alona, whose decomposing body inside a plastic garbage bag was found dumped on a hillside in southern Cebu. And who will answer for the deaths of four members of the Bacolod family and a neighbor, now that the suspected gunman was himself gunned down by police?

Ecleo himself has begun working on the "spin" on the gun battle in his island fortress, during which 19 of his armed followers and one policeman died. He had no control over the behavior of his followers, he said, since they exchanged fire with the police only out of a desire to protect him and prevent his arrest. This, even as an INQUIRER report depicted him as doing a "funny dance" on the rooftop of his mansion just before the gun battle began.

An even more ominous sign, though, was the presence of government officials when Ecleo was presented to the media in Camp Crame. Understandably, his mother, Rep. Glenda Ecleo, was by her son's side. But what was Sen. Robert Barbers doing there? And defending the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA)?

* * *

**THE PBMA has been described as a cult that Ruben Ecleo's father founded and of which the younger Ecleo became "Master" after the death of his father. The PBMA has its headquarters on Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte, which also happens to be the bailiwick of Senator Barbers, whose son Robert Lyndon is the provincial governor.**

**The PBMA claims to have more than three million members across the nation and even abroad, with its members and the Ecleo clan constituting a major political bloc in Surigao. Perhaps this explains why the senator was quick to placate its members and assure the public on the nature of the cultists. The PBMA has existed for decades, said Barbers, and the members hadn't created a spot of trouble before this. Most of the armed followers who exchanged fire with police must have come from outside the province, the senator hastened to explain, since he had received word that PBMA members from all over had gathered at Dinagat Island when they heard authorities were closing in on their "Master."**

**If indeed Senator Barbers and Governor Barbers had known of the presence of hundreds of armed PBMA followers massing in the island, then they, along with Representative Ecleo, must take responsibility for Wednesday's carnage.**

* * *

IN THE FIRST place, how could the PBMA, a private organization, have been allowed to build an arsenal of heavy weaponry such as that wielded by the fanatical "defenders"?

I find it incredible that no one in Surigao, especially the provincial officials, knew that Dinagat Island was being turned into an armed fortress. And if Ruben Ecleo Jr. had only been arrested soon after witnesses implicated him in his wife's killing, perhaps the deaths of 25 people need not have happened at all.

But even after all these, even after police and politicians had realized the futility of negotiations for surrender on Ecleo's terms, the search for a "political" solution is already underway.

I wonder how the surviving members of the Bacolod family are taking this turn of events. Long after they had buried Alona's bruised and battered remains, her husband and prime suspect in her murder remained free to taunt them from his fortress. And just as they waited anxiously for news of the arrest operation, a gunman opened fire on Alona's parents and siblings and a neighbor who just happened to be standing nearby.

Though Ruben Ecleo Jr. survives, he carries such a heavy karmic burden one wonders how he could ever make amends in the here-and-now and even the hereafter.

* * *

**AGAIN, here's proof that justice in this country is really a do-it-yourself affair. If you are rich enough or influential enough, or you're lucky enough to find yourself a clever lawyer, you can stall, dodge and negotiate your way out of a jail term. And if you should be unlucky enough to have a loved one victimized by criminals, be ready to spend time, fortune and influence to grease the wheels of justice. Justice is as justice does in this country. You can't wait for the police, the prosecutors, or the courts to do their job. You must push, push and push. Or, if you're on the wrong side of the law but blessed with resources, then all you have to do is to let your money do the talking.**

**Previously, I'd written about the "soap opera" undertones of another sensational case, though one of decidedly smaller scale than the Ecleo debacle. But even this "small" case, the killing of a private nurse allegedly by the wife of her employer, has ended the way many cynics said it would. The investigation has stalled after the nurse's family filed an affidavit of desistance, allegedly after they agreed on a cash settlement for the nurse's family.**

**Did I say a soap opera? Given the copious amounts of blood and murderous impulse that the Ecleo case is awash in, this is a tragedy of biblical implications. And God's wrath has fallen on us.**

* * *

*Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph*

# Rizal as a student in Manila

**LOOKING BACK**

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

LAST Tuesday was the first day of class for me. Over 15 years of teaching should make my undergraduate course of Rizal almost mechanical by now, but I always enter a new term and a new class with some nervousness. Are the students receptive? Are they interested—or even awake? Each term I try something new like revising the syllabus, readings, grading system and presentation to develop the course further. Students cannot imagine what it is like to face a new class at the start of a term—to have 60 pairs of eyes and ears trained on the circus monkey performing at the podium.

Each term I reread Jose Rizal's "Memorias de un Estudiante de Manila (Reminiscences of a Student of Manila)" written from 1878-1881. One always finds something new in this work despite repeated reading. For example, Rizal tried to hide his identity by using the pseudonym "P. Jacinto" on the cover of the manuscript, yet on the last page he signed his name! If I were Rizal I would burn this bit of juvenilia, but then if he did, many scholars would not have an important primary source to get to know and understand the hero better. In this diary Rizal talks of his life, loves, fears and hopes. And it is in his repeated reference to his height and weak constitution that he not only becomes human again, but is an open door to varied interpretations. When Rizal talks about his physical inadequacies, when he complains aloud about being "small," I have always taken this at face value and interpreted this to mean height. Nick Joaquin takes a different view and suggests that Rizal was conscious about something other than his height. Now, I leave that to your imagination.

On June 12, 1872 Jose Rizal took the entrance exam for the Ateneo Municipal at the College of San Juan de Letran, making some people smirk that he flunked Letran and went to the Ateneo instead. Fr. Fidel Villaroel, OP in his book "Jose Rizal and the University of Santo Tomas," explains that Rizal was really destined for the Ateneo and that Letran was just a testing center or venue for the Ateneo exams. This exam, according to Rizal, consisted of Christian doctrine, reading and arithmetic. He attained a passing mark and declared, "I returned to my hometown happy having for the first time experienced what examinations are."

While we have been force-fed in school about his nearly perfect academic record at the Ateneo, we are not told that he was initially refused admission. Rizal thinks this was due to his late registration, or (again) because he was small and of weak constitution. If we are to use a politically incorrect term that has made the INQUIRER apologize to the President, Rizal would be *pandak*. Maybe there was a line on a wall where Rizal was made to stand and was found wanting by a few inches. But then of course, Philippine culture comes in and the persistent Rizal family was able to find a friend of a friend, Manuel Xeres-Burgos, who vouched for Rizal and got him admitted. Rizal's Ateneo uniform was a coat and tie. And, like many of my classmates in grade school, they used a ready-made tie. It was only in Grade 7 that I became old enough to manage a real necktie. Rizal stayed in a Binondo boarding house run by a spinster named Titay, who owed the Rizals P300. Thus, Rizal's stay was offsetting the debt. He was very observant, and made notes about his classmates, their features and characters. Rizal even talks about "some young Spanish *mestizos*, the fruits of friar love affairs."

On his second year, Titay's debt paid, Rizal moved from Binondo to Intramuros. He stayed in a boarding house on 6 Magallanes Street run by a certain Doña Pepay. Here he wrote:

"By this time I began to devote myself in my leisure hours to the reading of novels, though years before I had already read `El ultimo Abencerraje' but I didn't read it with ardor. Imagine a boy of twelve years reading `The Count of Montecristo,' enjoying the sustained dialogues and delighting in its beauties and following, step by step, the hero in his revenge. [Thus, we see echoes of Dumas in `El Filibusterismo' with Ibarra/Simoun out for revenge]

"Under the pretext that I had to study universal history, I importuned my father to buy me Cesare Cantu's work [History of the World] and God alone knows the benefit I got from its perusal, for despite my average studiousness and my little practice in the Castillian tongue, in the following year I was able to win prizes in the quarterly examinations and I would have won the medal were it not for some mistakes in Spanish, that unfortunately I spoke badly."

Later Rizal moved to the Ateneo boarding house where he was given a little alcove in the corner of the dorm overlooking the sea. It was rather spartan with an iron bed, small table with basin, a chair and clothes rack. "I forgot to say that in the little table I had a drawer with soap, comb, brushes for the hair and for the teeth, powder, etc. [Obviously, there was no way of locking this drawer and he didn't trust the others in the dorm.] My little money that amounted to some eight pesos, I kept under my pillow..."

For students returning to school this week there is much in Rizal's diary that they can identify with, but first they have to read it.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph*

**THEY SAID**

## Not in media

"It's not right to trade personal attacks in the media. It's not part of due process."

***—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration chief Wilhelm Soriano***

## A mother's courage

"If you have the courage of your mother, you will go a long way."

***—Gracia Burnham said to the children of slain hostage Ediborah Yap***

## Filipiniana still unread

"There is so much Filipiniana crying to be read and written up."

***—New York-based Filipino author Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro on the vast collection of Filipiniana collection in a Chicago library***

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# RP joined treaty vs chemical pollutants

THE FACT that toxic chemicals are contaminating the food chain and ending up in our bodies speaks volumes about the failure of current approaches to control the problem of pollution. That babies are being born already saddled with a chemical burden is undeniable proof that the world is in serious chemical crisis.

Over a year ago, the international community took strong action against these chemical assaults to our health and our environment when more than a hundred governments adopted the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This treaty aims to ultimately eliminate a class of the most problematic chemical substances known to science, including the ultratoxic dioxins and furans. As a signatory to the convention, the Philippine government has a political commitment to ratify and implement the treaty.

The same convention identifies the incineration of waste as a major source of dioxins and furans and in fact recommends the use of substitute techniques and technologies to avoid the generation of these poisons. This renders incineration as an untenable waste management option particularly for countries which have signed the treaty, like the Philippines.

The elimination goal of the convention underscores the obligation of governments to ensure that priority is given to alternative waste management programs (e.g. reduction, reuse and recycling) and clean production systems, rather than dirty end-of-pipe measures which are obviously failing to protect the public from various toxic threats.

Coinciding with the first day of the 6th Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Stockholm Convention on POPs in Geneva, 125 citizen groups from 53 countries, including the Philippines are launching the first ever "Global Day of Action against Waste Incineration," challenging their governments to put a stop to the deadly practice and move their communities toward sustainable waste systems.

People have a right to live in a safe and healthy environment. Lamentably, we have allowed industry's wasteful polluting ways to trample with a right that is as sacred as the right to life itself. Our campaign against incineration is part of the struggle to reassert what people are rightfully entitled to—a clean and toxic-free future.

**—MANNY C. CALONZO, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives; EERO BRILLANTES, Health Care Without Harm; FRANCIS DE LA CRUZ, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, GAIA Unit 320, Eagle Court Condo, 26 Matalino St., Quezon City**

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## Nightmare of the worst kind

WHEN I saw the headline of the INQUIRER last Monday morning, I couldn't help but feel angry and at the same time, afraid. The thought of Fernando Poe Jr. running for election this 2004 is not just reliving a 1998 nightmare but a "*bangungut*," so to speak.

I cannot understand why people in the government would support someone who has nothing but popularity. Yes, a presidential candidate should be popular enough to win an election but he/she should also be capable enough to lead this country!

Why can't we learn from history? Why can't the educated and learned help the impoverished majority choose the best candidate for 2004? Poe is another actor who knows nothing about running a country. What does he know about micro or macro economics, commerce, foreign affairs, etc.? He is an actor, no more and no less.

I hope all the good politicians out there including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo rethink their strategy for 2004. The only way to beat Poe is to fight him "one on one"! If we don't come up with a strong candidate and instead let all the good men and women run for presidential office, Poe will win the 2004 election just as Joseph Estrada did in 1998. If we do not unite and get our acts together for this next election, we will bring another dark time in Philippine history and we cannot totally blame it on the dreaming, disillusioned masses.

I, together with my parents and family, run a printing business. One thing is for sure to happen when Poe wins this 2004—we will close shop! We will not wait for our business and our hard-earned investments to go down the drain. We will find opportunities elsewhere. I am sure that we will not be alone in this decision.

**—NOEL CARPIO, AEC Graphics Inc., 1 Molave St., Quezon City**

## Jeers and cheers for NSO service

WILL the National Statistics Office please explain why it charges P110 for authenticating a document when the Local Civil Registrar which produces the same document charges only P20?

On June 4, 2002, I applied at the NSO regional office in Baguio City for authentication of the birth certificates of my two children and I was charged P220. While it was the Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City which prepared, looked into the records and produced the documents, and which charged me only P40, the NSO whose work is only to stamp the documents with the word "authenticated," charged me P220 for the transaction.

Simple logic tells me that stamping the documents is a definitely much simpler work than producing them. Simple logic also tells me that asking me to pay that amount was too much, even immoral.

Will the NSO also please explain why it is doing civil registry work when in fact its name, thereby its essence, simply states otherwise?

**—MAGNO SIBULAN, Purok 3, Kias, Baguio City, magsibul@yahoo.com**

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PUBLIC service is such an oxymoron to a government agency like the National Statistics Office.

I am glad that the NSO has this office called the NSO Helpline Plus. It provides a 24-hour phone service to accommodate the requests for authenticated copy of birth, marriage and death certificates. Imagine the comfort of having your documents delivered right next to your door. This is such a relief from the horrible line at the NSO in East and Quezon Avenues in Quezon City. Of course, the convenience comes with paying P275 at Metrobank for the service rendered to Metro Manila residents instead of the usual P60. But the most disappointing part is receiving a letter which says that it doesn't have a copy of the document being requested. P275 for nothing.

Then you have to go through the long lines at its office on Quezon Avenue. I know that sometimes the requests yield negative results. But shouldn't the NSO do something? That is right after we followed the procedure for requests with no existing record. LBC and Metrobank are the only winners in this Helpline Plus. Something must be done about it—at least before the office becomes "Helpless Plus."

**—ROSS COLLADO, Unit 2013, Paragon Plaza, Edsa corner Reliance Street, Mandaluyong City**

## Citizens first, journalists next

THIS is to clarify the subject of your editorial, which criticized GMA news reporter Michael Fajatin for taking on the role of negotiator in the hostage-taking incident last May 31, 2002.

Perhaps your news organization was unaware of the entire situation.

It is true that "unless expressly called for by the situation... journalists must never assume the role of hostage negotiators," as pointed out in your June 5 editorial.

When Fajatin arrived at the Philtranco bus station, no one—not even the police—was doing anything. On his way inside, Fajatin almost bumped into a line of policemen walking away from the hostage-taker and his victim at their heels.

Fajatin tried to buy time for the young hostage until the authorities could plan out their course of action. It is for this reason that he spoke to Diomedes Talvo. The cops at the scene even encouraged Talvo to listen to him saying, "*Kaibigan natin 'yan*," and made no move to take over Fajatin's role.

After some time, Talvo began to speak in Ilocano. At this point, Fajatin stepped back and yielded to Ilocano-speaking bystanders who then spoke to the hostage-taker.

To my mind, Fajatin observed the principle, which all journalists should adhere to: that we are citizens first before we are journalists, especially when we are in a position to save a life.

It is also not true that GMA news presented Fajatin's report as a scoop.

We in the GMA newsroom grieve for the death of Dexter Balala and we are outraged that he had to die because of the Pasay police's mishandling of the situation.

The prominence and airtime we devoted to this story were not meant to gloat about our "scoop" but to call attention to a situation that must be addressed soon.

**—GRACE DE LA PEÑA-REYES, head, news operations, GMA Network Center, Edsa corner Timog Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

## Common people, uncommon deeds

YOUR paper last May 28, 2002 reported the story of Marilyn Bongiad of Calabanga, Camarines Sur, the teacher who found that more that P6 million had been erroneously added to her bank account. She decided immediately to report the matter to Education Secretary Raul Roco. After learning about her report, Roco then took the opportunity to provide an actual lesson on exemplary honesty and wrote a memorandum, titled "Commendation for an Honest Teacher," enjoining the entire Department of Education to congratulate Bongiad.

The story reminded us of Joseph Navarro, a simple man and a gardener at the Batangas Country Club. Quite recently, a *balikbayan* guest accidentally dropped her dollar bills amounting to $1,000 (or approximately P50,000) on the garden path of the country club. Navarro, upon finding the money, hurried to look for the person who lost it.

The guest was truly grateful. This gesture also brought extraordinary joy to the country club's owner-president. He had a poster made and this was displayed on the clubhouse premises to acknowledge the gardener's honesty. More than this, Navarro was given security of tenure until his retirement and was assured of placement in the future for his children.

We read and hear of so many sad and disturbing news nowadays but stories like those of Bongiad and Navarro edify us and encourage us to spread goodness wherever we are. Their acts depict courageous and honest deeds done by ordinary persons who truly show the greatness of their souls. A Chinese maxim seems to be very apt for people like them: "He who overcomes others is strong. He who overcomes himself is far more powerful."

**—JUDY MARANA-CASTAÑEDA, MEL MARANAN c/o Batangas Country Club, Bolbok, Batangas**

## Falsely harassed Chinese businessman

THIS is in reaction to several negative news reports regarding my alleged involvement in the illegal fishing activities of several Chinese poachers allegedly caught by Philippine authorities in Palawan sometime between January and May 2002.

Since I came to the Philippines in 1986, I have never been involved in any illegal activity and my Filipina wife and I have become successful in our business in Quezon, Palawan where we have legitimate concerns.

I was involved with reported Chinese poachers in early 2001 when Philippine maritime authorities impounded two Chinese fishing boats which came from Hainan province, China. Due to the language barrier and the refusal of the members of the local Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Palawan to help, the government contacted me and requested me to help by acting as official interpreter. I readily accepted the request and acted as interpreter until the said fishing vessels were released by Philippine authorities due to the alleged intercession of Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Then in September 2001, Philippine maritime authorities caught another four Chinese fishing vessels in different parts of Southern Palawan, two of which were the same fishing vessels apprehended previously. Although I only acted again as interpreter for this new batch of poachers, I was unjustly suspected by Palawan Coast Guard officials of having confederated with them in their fishing activities in Palawan and they had become so critical of me when all the four boats were subsequently released by the court after they had been fined and sentenced to short prison terms.

Their opportunity to implicate me came when in January 2002, a Philippine Navy gunboat successfully apprehended four Chinese fishing vessels in Tubbataha Reef and after a week or two, another fishing vessel in the South Palawan waters. The Cost Guard members of the Tubbataha Reef Detachment made up a story and alleged that I tried to bribe them with P30,000 in order for them to allow the Chinese fishermen to fish at the Tubbataha Reef but which they feigned to have accepted. Due to such allegations, I was picked up in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan by immigration agents sent by Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo last Feb. 28, 2002, although no formal charges were filed against me. It was only much later that I was formally charged by the Bureau of Immigration authorities of being an undesirable alien, the initial hearing of which is yet to be set despite the fact that several months have already passed since then.

The above allegations of the Coast Guard personnel were far from the truth because what really transpired is that they had insisted that I give them money because I owe my life to them since I was rescued by their comrades when my boat drifted and was lost in the Sulu Sea for several days. Although I had no other money, I gave them P40,000 since I truly owe my life to them. Hence, I was really surprised when this accusation of bribery was lodged against me and was even made the basis of my arrest and a congressional inquiry by Rep. Apolinario Lozada.

Then on May 12, 2002, another Chinese fishing boat was apprehended at Cagayancillo, Palawan. It was circulated in the media that I was the one who invited these people to fish in Philippine waters, an accusation which I vehemently deny since I was already detained at the Immigration Detention Center in Bicutan, Taguig where my movements were severely restricted.

Some people in Palawan also alleged that I have modern telecommunications equipment in my house in Quezon, Palawan which I allegedly used to communicate with my contacts in China. Because of that, I was also accused of being a spy for China by no less than Lozada who claims to know Chinese policies thoroughly. I could say that these accusations are grossly irresponsible and highly malicious.

Likewise, Lozada's unjustified conclusion that I am a Chinese spy is utterly false and was just based on the unproven conjectures of some of my townmates who have become jealous of my achievements. In this connection, I dare him to prove that I am really a spy for China. If I have committed any transgressions I would accept punishment, but only for those which are duly proved in court with hard evidence and not by trial by publicity at the hands of grandstanding government officials.

**—XU QING JIANG, BID Detention Cell, Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig**

# FPJ in 2004?

*("Voices on INQ7.net" is a weekly round-up of comments selected from those posted by thousands of Filipinos, here and overseas, on the Discussion message boards of INQ7.net, the online news website of the INQUIRER and GMA-7. To participate, register at http://discussions.inq7.net/)*

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I THINK movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. a.k.a. Ang Panday, is not ready to be a president of the republic. FPJ is an outsider to Philippine politics. Maybe the opposition is exploiting his popularity. He cannot win the 2004 presidential election without a grassroots political machinery. Popularity is not enough to win an election. It's how popularity will be converted into actual votes. Most actors were rejected in the last national elections. Nora Aunor failed to oust Governor Villafuerte of Camarines Sur. The other factor will be support from business leaders particularly Boss Danding and Lucio Tan. Money talks in an election. I suggest that Ang Panday should run as barangay captain in the July 2004 barangay elections as a starting point for his political career and then as Association of Barangay Council Federation president.—**Diego AKS**

* * *

If FPJ is really going to run for president, all sorts of political discussions are more or less futile because the outcome is more or less certain. If FPJ's candidacy is true and this is officially announced, I wouldn't be surprised to see the Lakas-NUCD party becoming a mere shadow of its current self. Knowing how the politicians behave and knowing how the general voting populace will react, FPJ will give Gloria a run for her money (that is, if the administration will be solidly behind her candidacy). It's going to be a wild ride from that point. Let the fun begin!—**piping dilat**

* * *

Gloria, is going to be very happy if FPJ runs for president. This is what she's been wanting to hear for quite a while. You see, Matang Dilat, if Angara will run as her only opponent, there will be a 50/50 chance of winning.

If FPJ also runs, they will collide with each other. Those 50 percent votes from Angara will be divided in two. They'll both get 25 percent each, and GMA will win in a landslide.—**nnapoy**

* * *

Obviously, you don't know the ins and outs of Philippine politics. Gloria will be happy if FPJ runs for president? She ought to be more afraid of Angara? Where did you get your ideas?

If the electoral population is composed of the current A&B strata, I would agree with your assessment. But since an overwhelming majority of the electorate come from the masses, you have to assess the situation from their point of view. How do you think Erap won the presidency back in 1998 in spite of the FVR administration's machinery?

Why do you think Gloria is traveling all over the country if not to reach out to the majority of the voters? (By the way, the trips are paid for by the taxpayers and are continuously increasing. Whether that is all right with you or not is the least of her concerns, correct?)

Intellectual voters, simply don't have the numbers. By reading your reply, I can assume that you are simply inventing your numbers. Me? I am basing my opinion on what happened during the 1998 elections.

Electing FPJ is like electing Sylvester Stallone or Arnold Schwarzenegger as the president of the United States. Imagine what will happen if any of these two action stars become president of the United States.

Compare that to our country. Well, our country is an insignificant Third World country anyway, so the outside world will just laugh at us and be reaffirmed in the thinking that many Filipinos still don't know how to choose the right leaders and differentiate fantasy from reality.—**Karaniwang_Tao**

* * *

Former California governor and class B movie actor Ronald Reagan was elected US president. He served two terms and won by a landslide.—**Diego AKS**

* * *

So, are Stallone or Arnold S. active in government also? Do they currently show an interest to serve other people? Are they governors of any state now?

Were any charges of plundering, illegal use of position and incompetence filed versus Reagan?

Mr. Diego AKS, please don't dishonor the name of Reagan by using him as an example to prop up local show-biz clowns. Fernando Poe is the king of action movies, but he isn't fit to become the president of a hurting nation.—**Karaniwang_Tao**

* * *

KT, go to the results of the poll on whether or not FPJ will win the 2004 election if he runs (INQ7.net main site). There, you will see that the survey results show FPJ will not win. Are you comfortable with that survey? Way back in 1997, during the height of the presidential campaign, this same site made a survey. Erap was definitely not popular in that survey.

Is there a simple explanation why the survey was not that reliable? if we consider the fact that the support base of Erap (and even FPJ) are the masses and not the elite, how many of such Erap supporters have access to this website (or even much less, a PC with Internet connection )?

Did you notice the huge crowd on TV during Rico Yan's funeral? Does that make any sense to you? Because basically these are the very same people who have the numbers to decide who will sit as president.—**piping dilat**

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# Cory asks Catholics to pray for families, unborn children

By N. Bordadora

FORMER President Corazon Aquino called on Catholics to pray for the preservation of Filipino families and the survival of the unborn child, during the launch yesterday of Prayer Power 2002 at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City.

Aquino said Prayer Power 2002 hopes to have at least one million Filipino families consecrate themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary in time for the World Meeting of Families in January next year.

The world meet will be attended by no less than Pope John Paul II, who would be on his third trip to the Philippines after his visits in 1981 and 1995.

"We are here to pray for our families and all families in the Philippines. We are here to pray for peace in our nation and in the whole world," Aquino told the audience of some 500 students from Christ's Youth in Action and 17 Catholic schools from all over Quezon City.

The Prayer Power campaign, Aquino said, has three components—to convince people to pray the rosary daily, to have one million families consecrate themselves to Jesus and Mary, and to pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the protection of families and the unborn child.

"When martial law was declared in 1972, Ninoy and I turned to the rosary," she said, referring to her murdered husband, Sen. Benigno Aguino.

"I have been praying the rosary since then and I will soon celebrate my 30th anniversary of praying the rosary," Aquino said.

She said the rosary helped her get through the most trying times, including her husband's detention in the '70s and his assassination in 1983, and the coup attempts that rocked her presidency in the '80s.


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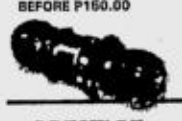

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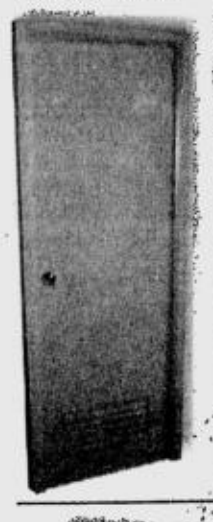

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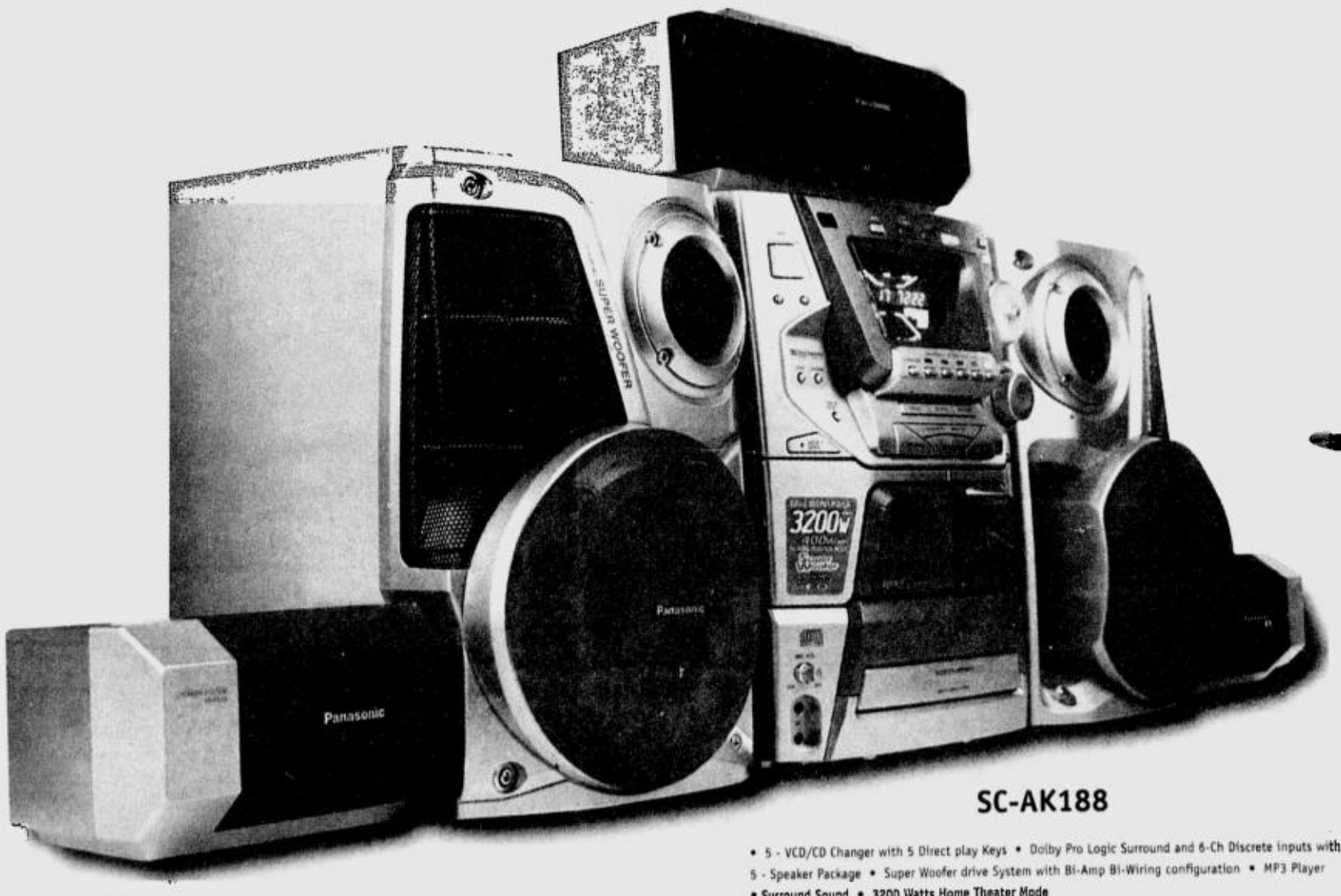


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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Plane enters White House airspace

**WASHINGTON—The White House was briefly evacuated on Wednesday after an aircraft flew into restricted airspace several miles away, apparently by accident, but US President George W. Bush was never in danger, officials said.**

The evacuation, which lasted less than 15 minutes, was reminiscent of the Secret Service's decision to evacuate the White House on Sept. 11, the day hijackers slammed aircraft into the Pentagon and the World Trade Center in New York.

The plane, a private Cessna, came within 6 km of the White House and air traffic controllers were unable to contact its pilot, triggering the executive mansion's first evacuation since Sept. 11, a Secret Service spokesman said.

US military jets were scrambled to escort it to Richmond, Virginia about 160 km from Washington, an aviation source said.

"A single engine aircraft entered restricted airspace. All early reports indicate that it was accidental. The plane was diverted," a senior Bush administration official told Reuters.

Asked if Bush was ever in danger from the incident, the US official said, "No, he was not," adding that the president remained at the White House and was not taken to a bunker. "They were prepared to take additional measures to protect the president but they were not necessary," the official added.

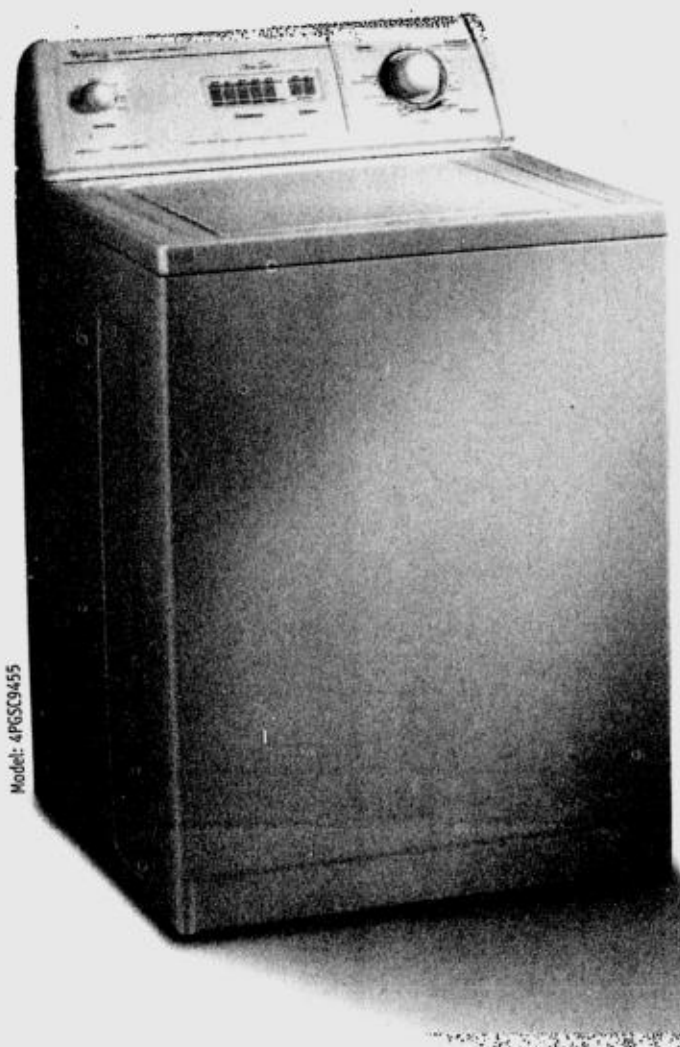
Secret Service spokesman Brian Marr said the aircraft entered a zone of temporarily restricted airspace and then skirted the airspace near the executive mansion that is always off limits.

"He had violated that (temporary) restriction and was still continuing on a course toward the White House, where he skirted . . . the normal restricted airspace," Marr said. "He did eventually turn away."

Marr said the pilot, whom he did not name, may not have known of the temporarily restricted airspace and would be interviewed by the Secret Service.

An aviation source said air controllers first noticed on radar that the plane had violated restricted air space 25.5 km southeast of Washington and notified authorities.

The incident followed the evacuation of the US Federal Reserve in Washington earlier on Wednesday because of a false alarm over suspicious packages and illustrated the hair-trigger sensitivity of US officials to any potential threat following the Sept. 11 attacks in which about 3,000 people died. ***Reuters***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## Karzai sworn in, names new Afghan cabinet

KARZAI

KABUL—Hamid Karzai was sworn in as Afghanistan's president for the next 18 months on Wednesday, naming a new government he hopes will bring peace and stability to the country after 23 years of war.

The Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly, approved the cabinet following more than a week of debate to chart a new political future for Afghanistan.

Prayers were said as the assembly ended on one of the most important days in the country's recent history.

In naming the bulk of his cabinet, which the assembly accepted in a show of hands, Karzai performed a delicate balancing act to try to satisfy rival ethnic groups.

He kept the key defense and foreign ministries for the Tajik-led Northern Alliance, which toppled the hard-line Taliban last year with US help and dominated his previous interim government, drawn up after peace talks in Bonn.

But he gave the Interior Ministry to a member of his own majority Pashtun ethnic group. He gave the 1,600 Grand Assembly delegates from around the country no chance to discuss the cabinet, submitting it only to a quick show of hands.

"Okay, you have approved it," he said when a majority of hands went up. "I am happy now."

But delegates failed to decide on how to choose a new mini-parliament, and the issue was given to a commission which Karzai will appoint.

Although many delegates complained the Loya Jirga was being manipulated by powerful warlords or by outside forces like the United States, the traditional gathering marked a huge step forward for a country still trying to get to its feet.

US special envoy Zalmai Khalilzad said the cabinet make-up was positive, but not perfect.

"Is it perfect? Clearly not. We have to wait to find out what the final balance of the cabinet is. But I regard it as a positive step in consolidating the new order of healing the wounds of Afghanistan," he said.

Karzai said he would resign if he could not bring peace and security to the country, vowing to promote national unity and build a prosperous nation which could stand on its own two feet with a strong local currency. ***Reuters***


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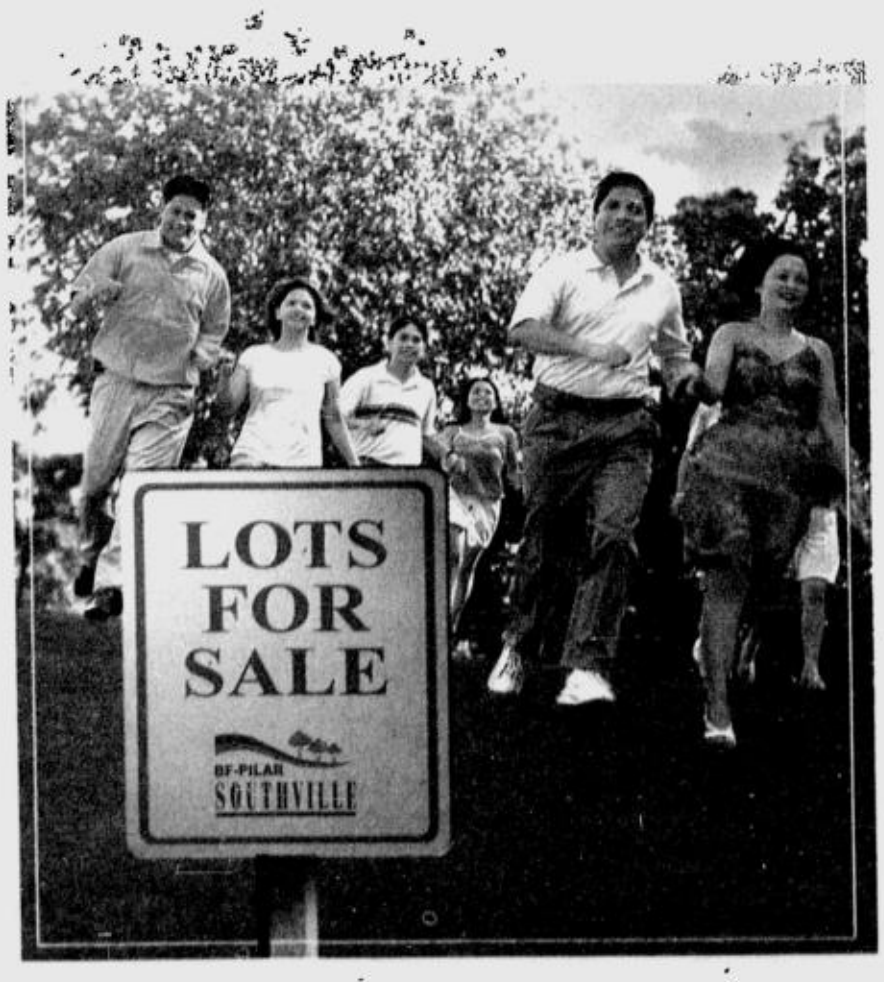


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## CBS teams up with Victoria's Secret

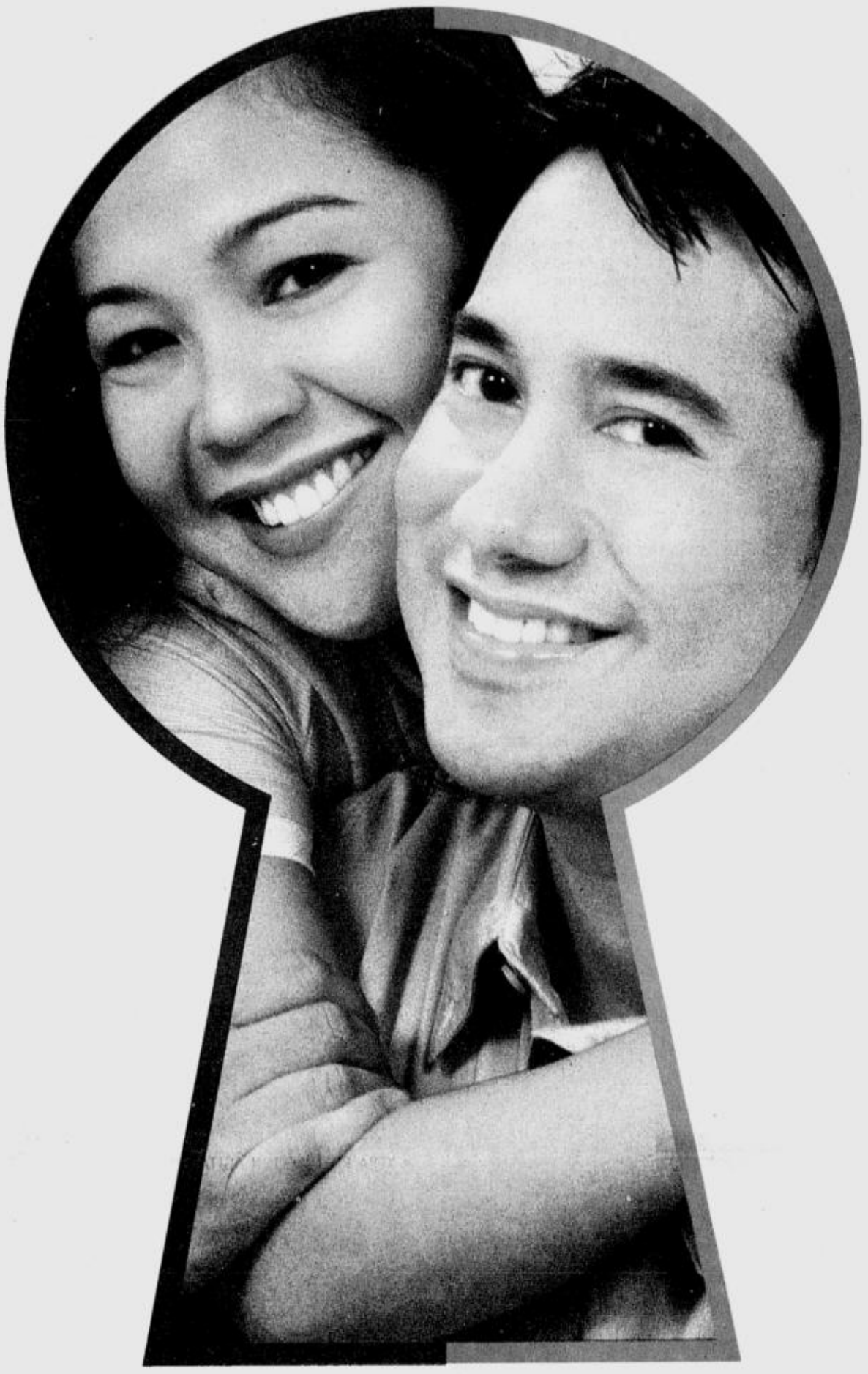
LOS ANGELES—CBS is betting that a parade of lingerie-clad models will do for its ratings what push-up bras do for cleavage.

The network has clinched a deal to broadcast a prime-time special next fall built around the annual fashion show presented by lingerie retailer Victoria's Secret, a CBS spokesman said on Wednesday.

A similar show on ABC last November drew strong ratings but sparked protests from feminist groups and viewer complaints to the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC later ruled that the ABC special did not breach the government's decency standards, but the Disney-owned network reportedly passed on a repeat performance. ***Reuters***

# HAPPINESS IS...



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# US demand for immunity throws UN peacekeeping operations into doubt

UNITED NATIONS—The United States threw the future of UN peacekeeping into doubt Wednesday when it proposed that all peacekeepers be exempt from arrest and prosecution by the new International Criminal Court.

"The whole spectrum of United Nations peacekeeping operations will have to be reviewed if we are unsuccessful at getting the protections we demand," a senior US diplomat, Richard Williamson, told reporters.

Williamson, who has ambassadorial rank, earlier submitted a draft resolution to the Security Council to make members of peacekeeping operations liable to prosecution for criminal offenses only by their own country.

"We hope to find a pragmatic way in which we can strengthen peacekeeping while respecting the United States position that we will not put American men and women under the reach of the ICC," he said.

The immediate threat is to the UN Mission in Bosnia (UNMIBH), whose mandate expires on Friday and can only be renewed by a resolution of the council.

"We have made clear that we need to have the ICC issue addressed before we could support a resolution," Williamson said.

Asked whether the mandate of UNMIBH was in jeopardy, a Western European diplomat said "yes," but added: "I don't think they would block it altogether. They are more likely to seek a two-week rollover while we discuss the matter."

The council had planned to renew the mandate until December 31, when UNMIBH is due to be disbanded and replaced by a European Union force.

The ICC, which will be set up in The Hague, comes into existence on July 1 and will have jurisdiction over any war crime, crime against humanity and act of genocide committed after that date.

Williamson noted that the United States—unlike virtually every other democracy—has not ratified the 1999 Statute of Rome establishing the ICC.

Washington recognized the sovereign right of others to join the ICC and "we are not trying to change their position," he said.

But, the United States had a sovereign right not to join and "other members of the Security Council will not change our position," he said.

A total of 68 states, including all members of the European Union, have ratified the statute. The United States signed it in the last weeks of former president Bill Clinton's term of office, but has refused to ratify it and has since said it is not bound by the statute.

In the past, US diplomats have expressed fears that the ICC could be used to harass US or Israeli officials or troops.

Western European diplomats and human rights lawyers argue that the ICC's statutes contain ample safeguards against abuse.

One lawyer, Bill Pace, Convenor of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, described the US proposal as "an assault on international humanitarian law and international justice of the first order."

"I hope other members of the Security Council and other countries will resoundingly reject the efforts of the US," Pace told AFP on Wednesday.

Williamson also submitted an amendment to the mandate of the force in Bosnia so as to prevent the surrender of any of its members to an international tribunal.

UNMIBH includes 1,586 civilian police officers (46 of them Americans) who are helping to build up and train a local Bosnian police. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has said this is vital to the fight against organized crime and terrorism in Europe.

The US draft resolution said anyone connected with a peacekeeping mission shall enjoy "immunity from arrest, detention and prosecution with respect to all acts arising out of the operation" in any country except his or her own.

The immunity "shall continue after termination of their participation in the operation," it added.

As of April 30, the United States had contributed 677 civilian police, 34 military observers and one soldier to the 15 current UN peacekeeping operations around the world. *AFP*

REUTERS

**CASH MINE**

**Tunnel worker Joerg Lamprecht grabs wads of East German cash found in a former Nazi tunnel complex in Halberstadt, about 200 km southwest of Berlin June 19. Authorities are shifting and burning the 3,000 tons of notes, the entire paper cash stock of the former communist East Germany, to prevent a continuation of thefts from the complex.**

# Strike spawns Europe travel chaos

PARIS—A joint strike by air traffic controllers in France, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Portugal caused massive travel disruption across Europe Wednesday, as the sector protested plans to create an EU-wide airspace.

Thousands of domestic and short-haul flights were cancelled while many others were delayed by hours.

However, virtually all long-haul international flights were unaffected.

The controllers were protesting controversial plans to create a unified airspace and single control for the skies above all 15 European Union countries, replacing the current system of national flight monitoring and guidance and reducing space reserved for military flights.

EU transport ministers met early this week to again weigh the idea, which they argue would increase the number of planes able to fly within Europe by solving problems of "saturation" in some countries.

But the Air Traffic Controllers European Unions Coordination, a federation of 13 air traffic controllers' unions which called Wednesday's strike, warns such a move would sacrifice safety for efficiency.

It also fears that the plan would lead to privatization of the sector and job losses, despite denials from the ministers.

Air traffic controllers in France—the country with the biggest airspace in Western Europe and a throughpoint for many continental flights—led the strike.

Almost none turned up for work, cutting traffic at Paris's two airports to around 10 percent of the 3,000 domestic and European flights that normally take place each day. *AFP*

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| JEL TRADING | 2/F STA. LUCIA EAST GRANDMALL<br>RIVERBANK MALL, A BONIFACIO ST. BARANKA MARIKINA |
| ORANGE COMM. | 2/F KAMAGONG LANE VIRRAMALL, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN<br>GREENHILLS CENTERMALL<br>ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA |
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# India says rebel incursions down, may withdraw army

NEW DELHI—India said on Wednesday there had been a big drop in the number of militants crossing over from Pakistan in the disputed region of Kashmir—a key Indian condition to end a six-month military standoff at the border.

"So far as trans-border terrorism is concerned there has been considerable decline," Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes told reporters.

In separate remarks to a local television station, he said infiltration of militants from Pakistan into Indian Kashmir had dropped by 50 to 60 percent.

"We're seeing that it (infiltration) is ending with each passing day. Last year in June, our forces killed 52 militants. This year, though the month of June is not yet over, they have only killed one," Fernandes told the Hindi language Aaj Tak television channel in an interview.

He also said India could end its huge military deployment at the border with Pakistan in the next two months only if it was convinced the flow of militants into Kashmir had stopped.

"If we see, say, in the next one month or say maximum two months that terrorists coming from Pakistan have stopped, then we will believe that the situation is normalizing and then we can do the job of calling back our army," Fernandes said.

Asked if tensions had come down, Fernandes said: "The last word on the border tensions is yet to be said. Till the time Pakistan's attitude changes, till then, tensions will remain."

India and Pakistan exchange almost daily fire in mountainous Kashmir. But paramilitary troops of both sides were involved in a first exchange of fire on the border of the desert state of Rajasthan in which two people died, the Defense Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman said the firing that broke out on Tuesday night in Ganganagar district stopped after local commanders held a meeting on Wednesday.

"The situation is completely calm now," he said.

The shooting on the border began when a man tried to cross over from Pakistan, he said. The dead included an official of the Indian Border Security Force and the suspected intruder.

India has long accused its nuclear rival of sponsoring "cross-border terrorism" by sending Islamic militants to attack targets in Indian Kashmir and elsewhere in the country. *Reuters*

# DNA tests prove producer fathered actress-model's son

LOS ANGELES—Millionaire film producer Steve Bing acknowledged on Wednesday that DNA tests have proved he is the biological father of British actress-model Elizabeth Hurley's baby son, as she has always insisted.

The test results, ending a bitter feud over the paternity of the child, were first disclosed at a hearing Wednesday before the family division of the High Court in London, where lawyers for both Bing and Hurley were present.

"Recently conducted tests have shown that Steve Bing is the biological father of Elizabeth Hurley's son, Damian Charles Hurley," Bing's spokeswoman, Sue Stapley, said in a brief statement to Reuters in a telephone call from London.

She said Bing was "pleased" the matter was resolved and said he stood by his past pledge to provide for the child if his paternity was proven.

There was no immediate statement from Hurley's representatives Wednesday.

Bing, 37, who had dated Hurley for about 18 months when she became pregnant, touched off a trans-Atlantic furor last December when he issued a statement questioning Hurley's public assertion that he was the father.

He said at the time they had not been in an "exclusive relationship," while Hurley insisted she had been "completely loyal and faithful" to Bing during their relationship, "as, indeed, he assured me he was to me."

Bing was instantly vilified by the British tabloid press, with one tabloid printing a wanted poster of him on its front page.

Damian was born April 4, and Bing launched legal proceedings about two weeks later to establish the child's paternity.

The outcome of the DNA test means the actress stands to substantial child support from Bing, the millionaire grandson of New York real estate magnate Leo Bing and a producer of such films as "Get Carter." *Reuters*

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# *Across the* NATION

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## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Hi32° Lo24° |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 24° Lo 17° |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 34° Lo 22° |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 33° Lo 25° |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 24° |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 22° |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 25° |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 23° |
| Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 22° |
| Roxas | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 23° |
| Cebu | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 25° |
| Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 24° |
| Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 24° |
| Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 24° |
| Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 24° |
| Davao | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 25° |

Compiled by: Armin Adina, PDI Research/06/21/02

# Tension rises between 2 farmers' groups claiming land

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BONGABON, Nueva Ecija—At least 99 farmers, many of them women, reoccupied the 100-hectare Vijandre estate in Barangay Pesa here on Wednesday, defending their stake on the landholding being claimed also by 30 other farmers who are mostly relatives of the owners.

The 99 farmers, all members of the Dibulo Upland Farmers Inc. (Dufai) and the Samahan ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Bongabon (SMB), possessed the land after the Office of the President in May denied again the appeal of the owners to exempt the land from the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Malacañang first rejected the appeal in December last year.

The Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board, former Secretary Horacio Morales Jr. and current Secretary Hernani Braganza had also denied the appeals for exemption.

On the request of Dufai and SMB members for CARP coverage in 1996, the DAR had established the estate to be idle and abandoned, and obtained it through compulsory acquisition.

The DAR had prepared Certificates of Land Ownership Award for Dufai and SMB farmers in July 2000.

All of them are farm workers, earning by working in onion and vegetable plantations.

The petition for exemption filed by the heirs of owner Maximiliano Vijandre, said to be relatives of former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez and Cabanatuan City Mayor Jay Vergara, had delayed the actual possession of the land by the CLOA holders.

Tired of waiting for five years and with Malacañang's recognizing their claim to the land, Dufai and SMB members first possessed the land on June 12.

"We waited and took no action until the Office of the President decided on the case. Aren't five years enough (time to wait)?" Lita Bayudan, SMB chair, asked during a dialogue organized by the DAR here on Tuesday.

Roger Vijandre, leader of the 30 Vijandre relatives, challenged the stake of Dufai and SMB members on the land.

"We also worked on this land for four years. We should be declared the legitimate CARP beneficiaries," he said.

As tension rose, both camps pressed the DAR officials to declare the legitimate CARP beneficiaries.

Napoleon Diaz, municipal agrarian reform officer, supported the Dufai and SMB members.

Although he disapproved of their June 12 takeover of the land, Diaz told Vijandre's group that Dufai and SMB members were the "ones who applied for CARP coverage to its full completion."

Pablo Rosales, chair of the Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid, lamented that the "owners had pitted their farmer-relatives against other farmers."

# GMA temper flares again over ancestral land titles

**BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo's temper flared up again here on Tuesday after discovering she might have no ancestral land titles to distribute by the end of this month, a deadline for distributing the titles that she gave herself during her State of the Nation Address last year.**

At the receiving end of her fury was Evelyn Dunuan, chair of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), who was directed to release the country's first 50 Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles (CALTs) and the first 50 Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs) before June 30.

Prof. Geoffrey Nettleton, president of the London-based Philippine Indigenous People's Links, told the INQUIRER in May that the release of Filipino ancestral land titles are widely anticipated overseas because "few countries have acknowledged their indigenous peoples' issues."

Ms Macapagal directed Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to pick up the slack from the NCIP for the next three years "to allow NCIP to build itself up institutionally," said a high-ranking official of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The President confronted Dunuan when she met the regional development council (RDC) here in a closed-door session at the presidential Mansion here that lasted for five hours.

Ms Macapagal had graced the 36th foundation anniversary of Ifugao, which she said would benefit first from the NCIP titles.

"Her hands were flying about. She was shocked to find out she might have no (CADTs or CALTs) to distribute as per her Sona commitments," said an official who attended the RDC meeting.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas, RDC chair here, later relayed the President's decision in a press briefing.

The top Neda official said Ms Macapagal's decision does not remove from Dunuan her control over ancestral land titling.

Instead, it will provide NCIP resources and expertise from the DENR, including geological surveyors, social anthropologists and geologists.

Molintas said Ms Macapagal had wanted to use the agricultural town of Bakun in Benguet as the first beneficiary of the ancestral land titles.

Dunuan did not meet with reporters here after the RDC meeting. But she told the INQUIRER on May 30 here that she had purposely slowed down the processing of ancestral land and domain claims throughout the country as a measure against fraud and political interference.

A CONGENIAL Ms Macapagal tries on a ceremonial *'tapis'* during rites for Ifugao Day on June 19.

TOOTS SOBERANO

"If I release a title to (indigenous peoples) I must guarantee that this will withstand the legal scrutiny of all worldwide institutions," she said.

Dunuan said the NCIP had been plagued by its own bureaucracy because few government agencies acknowledged its authority.

Ancestral land claims now cross the jurisdictions of the DENR, which processed the first claims before 1997; the Department of Agrarian Reform; the Department of National Defense; the Philippine Economic Zone Authority; and most local governments.

Dunuan said this was the main reason the budget-deficient NCIP had been unable to provide Ms Macapagal a clear target for this year's Sona.

Ms Macapagal directed the DENR, DAR and NCIP to immediately map out a working arrangement to avoid land conflicts during the RDC meeting here, Viray said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

# Criticisms greet plan to borrow P40M for new hospital in Aurora

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BALER, Aurora—Gov. Ramoncita Ong's proposal to obtain a P40-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines for the construction of a provincial hospital here has triggered protests from an organization here.

In a letter, Emeteria Rivera, convenor of the Multi-Sectoral Action Group (MSAG) of Aurora, urged the provincial board to reject the plan. The letter was also signed by more than 2,000 residents.

Rivera claimed that the new building would end up as a white elephant and the loan interest of P4 million annually would lead to higher costs of medical services in the province.

Ong, in public hearings, said the plan was essential, claiming that the Aurora Memorial Hospital, built in the 1940s in the capital town of Baler, was not deemed structurally fit for further improvement. Most of its offices are already dilapidated.

The plan, Ong added, was being pushed for the benefit of Aurora residents.

But Rivera said contracting the loan was not necessary and that the proposed 50-bed hospital was not yet vital since the existing 25-bed AMH has an average daily occupancy rate of only 65 percent. (The province's population, as of 1995, was 158,968).

Rivera said the provincial government had not earmarked any fund for the project and would most likely get portions of the loan payments from the patients.

In her letter, she lamented the bias for infrastructure, noting that the proposed loan seeks to cover only the cost of the construction.

"No funds are set aside for the maintenance, hiring of additional health workers and acquisition of medicines and equipment for the proposed hospital. At the moment, the AMH is poorly maintained and suffers from lack of doctors, nurses, equipment and medicines. What more if we have a bigger hospital?" Rivera said.

In also spending the entire loan on the proposed hospital, the provincial government was neglecting the AMH and three district hospitals in the towns of Casiguran, Dingalan and Maria Aurora, she said.

The three, she added, are in need of more personnel and improvements. Limited resources, according to her, were recently spent for the construction of new delivery and operating rooms worth P1 million at AMH.

Dr. Ana Maria Consuelo of the Kalusugan Lingkod sa Aurora (Kalinga), a non-government health organization, said the basic problem lies in the limited budget for public health care.

# Bandits' trade off: Amnesty for Korean hostage's freedom

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The leader of a gang that kidnapped Korean national Jae Keon-yoon in February said they were willing to surrender and release the victim provided the government give them amnesty.

Mayor Labualas Mamansual of Palembang, Sultan Kudarat, said Commander Kimboy Bayang of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front wrote him to relay the message from the ranking leaders of the Abu Sufia gang.

Bayang, who was tapped by the government and the MILF to secure Jae's freedom, told Mamansual that gang leader Tongu Abdulrachman alias Commander Tropical approached him and asked for assistance regarding his and his men's plan to surrender.

Commander Tropical said he wanted the charges filed against him and MILF commander Tigre Jakiri dropped.

Mamansual said he suspects that infighting among Abu Sufia leaders prompted Tropical to yield.

One of its leaders, a certain Commander Usop Omar, reportedly resorted to banditry to raise funds for the group.

Omar was the main suspect in the June 3 highway robbery in Sitio Takal, Barangay Pinol in Maitum, Sarangani.

Three members of the gang were killed, while several others were wounded in a shootout with three Army soldiers shortly after the gang men robbed the passengers of two cargo trucks bound for this city.

One of the injured Abu Sufia members, Ismael Binago, was captured on Tuesday during a police raid in Barangay Labangal here.

Commander Tropical and the rest of the Binago brothers allegedly scolded Omar for staging the highway robbery without consulting other leaders of the gang.

Mamansual said he was studying the proposal of the gang before making any recommendation to the government. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# Southcom chief defends US troops' attitude on media

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command Chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina defended American forces in Basilan who were heavily criticized for drawing their firearms in front of media men covering Monday's clash in Isabela City.

Carolina said the US troops were only employing precautionary measures by not allowing just anybody inside the headquarters of the 55th Infantry Battalion.

US troops started to tighten security after two of their colleagues clashed with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Barangay Maligue, Isabela City.

None of the American soldiers, who were then securing US Navy Seabees, were injured after the bandits fired at them.

Jiggy Manicad, a reporter for GMA-7, said the arrogance of the US troops was uncalled for.

But Carolina said he saw nothing wrong in the actuation of the Americans.

"You know, the Americans are very strict. If they know that the area is off limits, they would prevent anybody from getting inside it. I know you were used with (Filipino soldiers). We allow you inside exclusive areas because we know you but they are different," he said.

Carolina even faulted the media for the incident.

"What I'm saying is that the media were not even supposed to be there," he said.

Manicad and his cameraman Jun Fronda said they were not persistent to interview US soldiers at that time.

"I even told those two Marines that if their official refused to be interviewed then we will just talk to the Filipino Army commander," Manicad said.

"I even told them that there is no need to cock their weapons as we are journalists, but one of the camp sentry said that we cannot get inside because it is their area," he added.

Manicad said he was also saddened at Carolina's defense of the US soldiers. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# Gloria campaign leader fired for criticizing 'Ina ng Bayan' ads

BAGUIO CITY—Malacañang terminated a former campaign leader of President Macapagal-Arroyo, three months after she had criticized the President's publicist for initiating the controversial "Ina ng Bayan" infomercials.

Lawyer Concepcion Luis, one of the campaign coordinators of the Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (KGMA) in Baguio, ends her term as a Malacañang technical adviser on June 30. Luis was one of several Baguio women who publicly complained about the "Ina ng Bayan" commercials, which were engineered and produced by Manila Times owner Dante Ang, Ms Macapagal's personal publicist.

Luis and a group representing Ms Macapagal's campaign volunteers in Baguio faulted Ang for altering the President's public image, without regarding its high costs to her "natural" empathy with people. The INQUIRER ran their story on March 31.

Ang responded through a strongly worded column on April 1 in the Manila Times. But he vented his ire on Luis' companions. One of the critics retracted her statements in an affidavit, according to reports.

Ang is now president of Ms Macapagal's party, Kampi. Ms Macapagal, meanwhile, had assumed the leadership of the administration Lakas-NUCD-UMDP from Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

Luis acknowledged the impact of these political realignments on Ms Macapagal's original campaign team during the 1998 presidential election.

Ms Macapagal won as vice president by a landslide in Baguio City and Benguet, due largely to "unpaid and uncredited volunteers," Luis claimed.

"We complained because we wanted to shield her (Ms Macapagal). We were trying to protect her, because we were very concerned for her. But if that is not how (Malacañang) interprets our actions, then I won't argue anymore," she told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

Luis was notified about her termination on May 21. But she said her termination was actually signed on April 9 by the Office of the President personnel director Florino Ibañez.

Luis went to Ms Macapagal's Baguio home on Tuesday to submit her response to the Palace termination letter.

Ms Macapagal was attending a regional development council meeting at the presidential Mansion when Luis turned up at the president's family home.

"As I will be leaving your group, which is not my choice but that of your honorable office, and without the opportunity (of knowing) how and why, I wish to tell you I bear no ill feelings against anyone. Should I have fallen out of your grace, for being outspoken and passionate for your cause, I apologize," Luis wrote Ms Macapagal. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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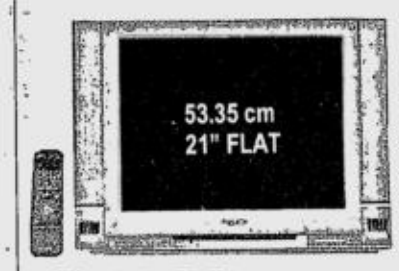


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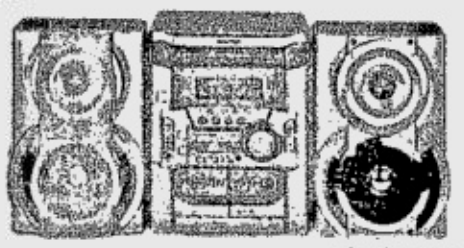

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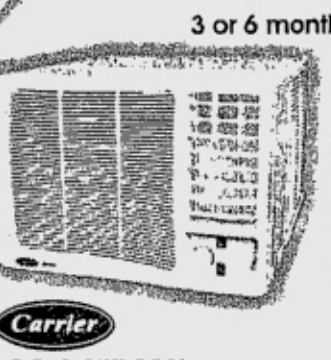


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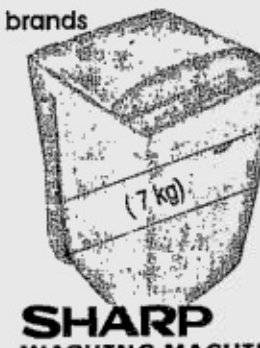


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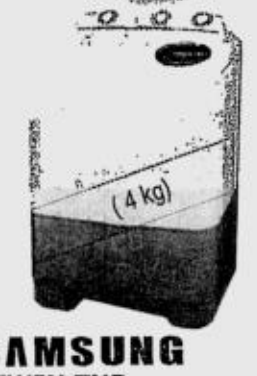


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# Ecleo found positive for 'shabu,' say cops

From page A1

do with the killing of his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo. He said that his wife's brother, one Boboy Bacolod, was behind the murder, saying he was the last person seen with her.

### More charges

Ecleo faces more criminal charges, officials added.

"Definitely we will file murder charges (and charges of) attempted murder and illegal possession of firearms" against Ecleo, said Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, who took him into custody on Wednesday.

At least 100 policemen raided the cult's commune on Dinagat late Tuesday to serve an arrest warrant on Ecleo, sparking a firefight.

Olario said Ecleo also faced possible multiple murder charges over the massacre of his in-laws in Cebu on Tuesday night. A brother-in-law, among the slain, was a witness to Alona Bacolod's murder.

"He could be charged for it because it was his employees who committed the killings in Cebu," Olario said over local radio.

His wife's parents, sister, and a neighbor were also killed in the attack. Police later killed the gunman, whom they identified as a PBMA member.

Olario said that when he tried to serve the arrest warrant at Ecleo's hilltop mansion, "I saw him holding a gun, his bodyguards around him armed with high-caliber weapons. Instead of surrendering, they let loose a hail of bullets."

He said Ecleo surrendered before dawn Wednesday after an Army company arrived to reinforce the police.

An unknown number of his followers were also detained to determine which one of them fired guns. Police said there are 50,000 cult members on Dinagat.

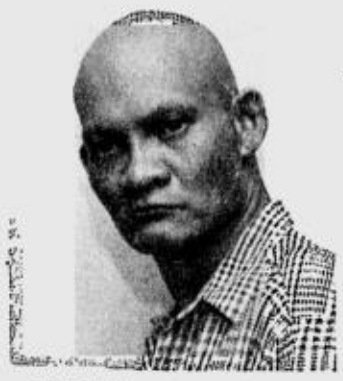
"If they fired guns they will be charged, because of the slain policeman," he said.

Olario said police had seized at least 10 firearms from the commune, adding that "clearing operations" were continuing to hunt down armed cult members who could have escaped under cover of darkness.

### Police defended

Incoming PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. defended the conduct of policemen who shot it out with Ecleo's followers, saying the action was not an overkill.

Ebdane said that the policemen "had taken up positions



RUBEN ECLEO JR

DENNIS SABANGAN

**ECLEO poses for police photographer inside the CIDG jail in Camp Crame.**

when they were rushed by the security guards of Ecleo and the first casualty in the firefight was a policeman."

Ebdane said that most of the 19 PBMA members killed in the firefight were slain because "they were caught inside the killing zone" of pre-positioned law enforcers.

He emphasized that the gun battle came in the wake of the fourth attempt to serve a warrant on Ecleo.

Ebdane said that Ecleo's mother Rep. Glenda Ecleo "used to negotiate and request for some leeway."

"I was able to talk to her the other day and I told her this is getting embarrassing. You have to surrender your son," he said.

Ebdane also said that the shootout in Surigao del Norte was "inter-related" to the killing, also last Tuesday, of four members of the Bacolod family.

"The encounter between government troops and the group of ex-Mayor Ecleo in Dinagat happened within the time frame of 6 to 10 in the evening and the massacre that happened in Cebu happened at 9:40 in the evening," Ebdane said.

"So while the perpetrator (in Cebu) was killed, we found some evidence linking him to the PBMA," he said. "He has a PBMA ring and the victims were actually members of the family of the late wife of Ecleo."

### Security alert

The police have beefed up security in Cebu, in anticipation of Ecleo's arrival today.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas, directed a mobile patrol group to send two teams to augment the members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group who would meet Ecleo at the Mactan Cebu International Airport in Lapu-Lapu City.

The policemen are to escort Ecleo to the camp while waiting for the court's commitment order.

Angelito "Niño" Bacolod, 24, said the cult leader should be jailed with the criminals at the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC).

"It was unfortunate that he was not among those killed," Bacolod added. One of the PBMA members slain in the Dinagat assault was Juriven Padero, Ecleo's bodyguard and co-accused in the killing of his wife.

But Supt. Lita Quilaton, BBRC warden, said Ecleo would be better off detained at the Centcom or the CIDG stockade, because the city jail already has more than 1,000 inmates.

"We are preparing for the expected detention even if we feel it is much better if Ecleo will not be detained in BBRC. However, we can't do otherwise if there's a court order, we have to comply," she said.

Quilaton asked the Cebu City Police Office to augment their security personnel in case the court ordered Ecleo's detention at the city jail.

She asked that the members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and of the Mobile Patrol Group be detailed to the city jail.

Rep. Glenda Ecleo said her son should remain in Camp Crame and that the trial should also be held in Manila, because she said the Cebuanos had already convicted her son.

But Cebu City Prosecutor Jose Pedrosa shot down the idea.

"I assure the public that I would do my best that Ecleo be detained in the place where I have jurisdiction, a place under the direct supervision by the Cebu City Police Office," he said.

He vowed to block any move to transfer the venue of the trial "because of security threats to the witnesses, unreasonable expenses as well as the outcome of the case if it is heard (elsewhere)."

He said he even feared for the lives of his witnesses following the massacre of the Bacolod family.

He said he had yet to locate three or four witnesses who saw the garbage bag, containing Alona's body, being dumped in Dalaguete by two men on board a white car sometime in January. ***With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene Bolambot, PDI Visayas Bureau***

# He jammed with master Bobong in Dinagat gig

From page A1

practice and gigs—drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and other things "rockers" normally did.

Rico's face was serious. He said he was getting tired of the "usual things" and wanted a change. He had sinned and wanted spiritual salvation, he said.

I almost choked on my beer.

Rico and the five other band members—Caloy, Junjun, Binga, Tomtom and Labok—started missing out on our practice sessions. They would only show up during a break in their orientation into the PBMA.

After about a year of irregular jam sessions, which had sometimes prompted me to entertain the thought of leaving the band, my friends became PBMA "missionaries."

They started wearing a PBMA ring.

Every noon and 6 p.m., they would pause from our practice to recite a prayer, which I could not discern at the time. Using their right hand, they would first touch their chest and then their forehead, and then recite a prayer in unison.

In March 1987 Caloy told me that we were going to Dinagat for the annual PBMA conference in May. My friends were excited because the conference, which draws thousands of members from all over the world, was akin to a pilgrimage.

Dinagat, I later learned, was considered by the PBMA the place of God's transfiguration.

About three weeks before our trip, we were told that only PBMA members would be allowed in the conference. But the band refused to play without me, so we started consulting "missionaries" and officials in our town. They suggested I become a PBMA member.

There was a problem though: nobody could become a member without undergoing a series of orientation.

So a ranking PBMA official made a compromise: I would be made a member without undergoing the usual ceremony, if the band agreed to become his chapter's official band in the conference.

### Pair of rings

Having become a member, I was given a pair of rings—one with a blue stone and another with inscriptions I could not understand.

I was also given a sheet of paper where the prayer was written and was told to memorize it.

In between band practice, I would put down the paper before me and would read aloud: "*Eyom, Koram, Jenesim; Enowam, Belorem, Krisaram; Mowem, Desam, Aratum; Aksum, Okram, Bekream.*" Whatever that meant.

We were also made to join group prayers where a chair draped in white cloth would be placed in front of us. I was told that Master (Ruben Ecleo Sr.) would be attending our prayers, at the same time that he goes to other prayer meetings elsewhere.

He was omnipresent, or had the ability to be in different places at the same time.

On May 1, 1987 we sailed for Dinagat.

I was told to consume as many cigarettes because I would not be allowed to smoke in Dinagat. But while smoking in the boat, I had to hide my rings. After all, PBMA members were expected to have freed themselves of vices.

In the boat, I saw a number of women in white blouses and blue skirts, men in white polo shirts and some children.

I learned that they came from as far as Bacolod City, but there was no trace of exhaustion on their faces. Perhaps they were too excited to get to Dinagat, which was more than an hour's ride from Surigao.

When we finally reached the island, I saw tents and a sea of people, perhaps more than 10,000.

### Master and master

My bandmates and I went to see Master (Ecleo Sr.). One by one, my friends kneeled before the man and kissed his hands.

I followed suit although I had this weird feeling. Master was being venerated like he was God.

Then we met Ruben Ecleo Jr., master Bobong (his title was written with a small "m" then) to PBMA followers.

He was practicing a Van Halen piece with his brothers Allan Uno and Allan Dos. I immediately liked him, not because he was one of the PBMA's leaders, but because he played the guitar like a pro.

Like us, his group would also be performing during the convention.

But then something caught my eye.

Behind him were an ashtray full of cigarette butts and some bottles of beer. I motioned to Caloy, but he told me to shut up.

When we were in our quarters in the mansion, I asked the PBMA official who came with us why PBMA members were not allowed to smoke while the master was allowed to.

"Just follow what he says but not what he does," he replied.

Besides, the master was the one absorbing the bad effects of nicotine and alcohol.

I saw how even the master was venerated by PBMA members.

Whenever he went out of the mansion with a cigarette between his fingers, PBMA members would be on the lookout where he would throw the butt. Then they would scramble to get it because they believed it could help heal their ailments.

### Rockin' master

Our band and the others belted out rock numbers, but the crowd only became enthusiastic when master, Allan Uno and Allan Dos went up the stage.

Master opened their act with Van Halen's finger-twisting "Eruption" using his Kramer guitar, then priced at P18,000. He followed this with "Holy Diver" by Dio.

**RUBEN Ecleo Jr. plays his guitar in this photo taken from the PBMA website. A former follower says Ecleo plays the guitar like a pro.**

The crowd was getting excited.

Master Bobong then played about half a dozen other heavy metal songs and ended his repertoire with an instrumental number by Japanese guitar virtuoso Masayoshi Takanaka, which I still cannot play even today.

The conference was also a venue for long speeches on how to become a good PBMA member by helping the needy. There were also announcements of the Master's (Ecleo Sr.) prophecies and how to be saved when the world comes to an end.

Between the speeches was the salute to the master—in unison, the crowd placed their hands on their chests and then their forehead, as if executing a salute.

During our stay, which lasted more than a week, I learned that many things being preached in the PBMA were the exact opposite of what the Ecleos did—like smoking and drinking.

But I was happy because I could smoke and drink inside the quarters where our band practiced.

Master Bobong would join me and teach me the great riffs that I had been drooling at. In between these sessions, he would tell me that he wanted to record his songs one day.

From my point of view, master Bobong was no different from me and other musicians. He was just like us, dreaming of becoming a rock star.

On the boat trip back home, I threw my rings into the sea. They had served their purpose—to get me to Dinagat.

I must confess that I liked most of the PBMA's teachings, but I know I could never be a saint.

Besides, I never understood why Master and his family were exempted from all of that.

My bandmates?

Like many other PBMA members they were convinced about the Master's teachings, and they eventually lived on the island, waiting for the end of the world.

# US OKs combat patrol for GIs

From page A1

concern that Americans might be drawn into deeper involvement because the US role in the Vietnam War also started with advisers.

Under an agreement between Washington and Manila early this year, about 1,200 Americans are to train, advise and equip Philippine forces fighting the Abu Sayyaf bandits until July 31.

Outside of Afghanistan, it is the largest US military deployment in the war against terrorism.

On Monday, US Marines and Filipino soldiers guarding a road construction site exchanged heavy gunfire with 10 Abu Sayyaf bandits on Basilan—the first time Americans had seen hostile action in the five months since they arrived.

The training so far has been confined to the battalion level—that is, the Americans work at headquarters and remain behind when Filipino forces go on patrol.

### New plan

Under the new plan, US troops would advise about 20-25 Filipino units at the smaller, company level. They would be allowed to join their patrol, Pentagon officials said.

But rather than extend the program beyond the approved six months—as has been debated in recent weeks—the Pentagon will begin pulling out US troops at the originally planned time, the officials said.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld had for weeks been studying recommendations by commanders that said moving with the smaller units would allow Americans to give better advice.

It would let them observe Filipinos in field situations—and advise them on the spot.

The Americans include 160 military advisers on the island of Basilan. There also are trainers, intelligence and logistical support personnel and about 300 Navy engineers who are improving an airplane runway, a causeway and other infrastructure.

Rumsfeld approved the plan to expand the program in recent days and President Bush agreed, officials said Wednesday.

The situation in the Philippines also has changed. The bandits no longer are holding missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham of Kansas.

A rescue attempt by Filipino troops freed Gracia Burnham but left her husband and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap dead.

Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis declined to comment on any new plans for the Balikatan program but acknowledged officials were working "to refashion" it.

### Still hoping

In Manila, however, the Filipino co-director of the Balikatan program is still hopeful the RP-US military exercise will be extended beyond July.

Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio said both sides had yet to discuss the possible extension of the joint exercise.

"There is still no final decision. We're still discussing the extension," Teodosio told defense reporters.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, the military spokesperson, told reporters that American soldiers would not be involved in combat.

"They would be involved in training and education only . . . American soldiers would not join the Filipino troops in combat," Purificacion said.

The situation in Basilan took a new turn with the abduction of four Indonesian seamen aboard a tugboat earlier this week. One of the Indonesians, however, managed to escape.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, head of the Southern Command, yesterday said he expected to recover the three remaining Indonesians held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf within three days.

Carolina said the three Indonesians, who were seized at sea on Monday, were being held in a district near Luuk, Sulu, and that the area was surrounded by police and military forces.

"Within three days, we will get the three remaining Indonesian nationals," Carolina told reporters on a visit to Jolo.

### Exits closed

Troops have been posted on all the small islands near Luuk to ensure that the kidnappers do not try to flee through these islets.

Four Indonesian seamen were taken from a tugboat hauling a barge of coal in the waters off Basilan by the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group with alleged links to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

One of the four, second officer Ferdinan Joel, escaped from his captors on Wednesday and confirmed that his compatriots were being held by the Abu Sayyaf on Jolo.

Joel, who emerged bruised and hungry from the jungles, singled out from police mugshots, Hamsiraji Sali, a top Abu Sayyaf leader based in Jolo, as the leader of the kidnapping band.

Just 10 days before the Indonesians' abduction, Philippine troops staged a rescue operation for three hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf for nearly a year. US missionary Gracia Burnham was rescued but her husband Martin and a Filipino nurse were slain in the rescue.

"Ferdinan told military investigators that two young women brought them food and that when he saw a chance to escape, he did," said Jolo military commander Col. Romeo Tolentino.

The bandits still have the boat's skipper Muntu Jacobus Winowatan, chief officer Julkipli and chief engineer Pieter Lerrech.

Defense department spokesperson Melchor Rosales stressed Thursday that Joel's statements were a "preliminary identification" of the suspects.

The authorities are not yet 100 percent sure that Abu Sayyaf gunmen were really involved, he added. ***Reports from Martin P. Marfil, AP, AFP, Reuters***

# Cop-member . . .

From page A1

A former devout Protestant, Padero said he shifted to the PBMA after its missionaries "cured" his sister of an unknown disease.

"It was because of the PBMA that my sister was cured. She could have died from the disease then," he said.

The policeman eventually became a member, after a year of orientation on PBMA moral guidelines and religious dogma, which are derived from a mixture of Christian, Buddhist and Hindu doctrines.

"The love of God above all things and brotherhood through benevolent acts was the centerpiece of our belief," Padero said.

Mary Bulabog, 36, a farmer, said she was not deceived into joining the PBMA.

"I believed in his (Ruben Jr.) wisdom and he helped us toward our salvation," Bulabog, secretary of the local PBMA chapter in Butuan City, said in the vernacular.

The PBMA, which first surfaced as an anti-communist group, has enticed people from all sectors of society, according to Bulabog.

"We have members who are professionals such as lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers," Padero said.

Like the rest of the members, Bulabog was taught to venerate the "master," who was touted to be the epitome of Jesus Christ.

When his father died in the early 1990s, Ruben Jr. became the new master, preaching the "Good News" and enticing people like Padero to gather on Dinagat Island.

Padero said that in his missionary work, Ruben Jr., widely known as Master Bobong, would claim that he could be in various places at the same time.

He claimed that his master even recites sacred mantras.

Being in the PBMA for 22 years, Padero said his "material and spiritual diseases" have been healed.

Asked whether his master was guilty, Padero said: "The truth will prevail."

# Summer solstice: Today is year's longest day

By Volt Contreras

TODAY is no ordinary day. Ancient rituals and customs mark it worldwide. National Artist Nick Joaquin made it the title and backdrop for one of his literary masterpieces.

The Summer Solstice—the longest day of the year—will last one minute shy of 13 hours, with the sun rising at 5:28 a.m. and setting at 6:27 p.m.

"Seize the daytime. Make the most of the added hour of sunlight," said Elmor Escosio, who oversees the Planetarium of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Weather specialist Jose Mendoza explained the summer solstice comes between June 20 and 22, when countries in the northern hemisphere are closest to the sun.

In most countries in the Western world, this officially marks the start of summer.

In tropical countries like the Philippines, the longest day ironically heralds the onset of the rainy season.

Solstice means "sun stands still." During Summer Solstice, the earth tilts to the point where the North Pole is at its closest to the sun. Thus, all areas above the equator are exposed to sunlight for relatively longer periods than the southern half of the globe. Conversely, the latter half has its shortest day during the summer solstice.

After June 21, daytime will gradually shorten, and by Sept. 23, day and night will be equal in length at 12 hours each. This is called the Autumnal Equinox.

Then the nights will get longer, until Dec. 22, when the night in the northern hemisphere will be at its longest—the Winter Solstice. This is the time when the earth tilts to the point where the South Pole favors the sun.

From then on, the nights will grow shorter until it reaches equal length with day again around March. This is the Spring or Vernal Equinox. ***With Armin Adina, PDI Research***

# JDV backs FPJ for anything but the presidency

DAGUPAN CITY—Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said he would ask movie king Fernando Poe Jr. to join the Lakas-NUCD and run for the Senate in the 2004 elections.

"He would make a very good senator, even a good vice president. (But he has to) train for the presidency, understand economic policies, budget making, macro-economic policy. I like him. He is my favorite. My wife and his family are very close," De Venecia told reporters here on Thursday.

The family of De Venecia's wife, Gina, owned Sampaguita Pictures where Poe's wife, movie actress Susan Roces, was a star in 1960s.

"I will send feelers to him. He is a good material for senator. He has declared he will not run for president. He has a correct decision. But he said he would not enter politics. He and his wife Susan will make a terrific team," he said.

De Venecia, who graced Dagupan City's 55th founding anniversary celebration, hurriedly left at past 3 p.m. to attend the Lakas caucus in Manila.

He did not mention, however, whether he would present his proposal to Lakas members during the emergency meeting which was set supposedly to resolve the Senate impasse.

If Poe would turn down the offer to run for a national post, De Venecia said he was considering fielding the actor for the province's gubernatorial race.

Poe's parents are natives of San Carlos City and Mangatarem town.

"He can also be a good governor. Or we will field him as coalition candidate for the Senate," he said. ***Yolanda Fuentes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

# US solons tackle bills on RP vets

THE UNITED States Congress has begun taking up bills that would grant the Filipino War Veterans a monthly pension of $1,000 and other claims such as health care benefits to honor and recognize them for their contribution to the Allied victory when they fought alongside the Americans under the US flag during World War II.

A delegation of Filipino-American and Filipino veterans residing in the Philippines, accompanied by a contingent of Filipino congressmen, appeared before the US Congress, during the hearing of the US veterans' affairs subcommittee on health on June 13 in Washington D.C.

Philippine Ambassador to the US Albert del Rosario acted as spokesperson for the Philippine delegation and tried to convince the US solons to grant the claims.

If approved by the US Congress, Senate Bill 1042 and House Resolution 491 will benefit some 12,900 Filipino-American war veterans residing in the US and some 35,550 Filipino veterans residing in the Philippines.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| | 5J - 563 | Daily | DC9 | 0900 | 1010 | | | | |
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| | 5J - 383 | Daily | DC9 | 0930 | 1055 | | | | |
| TACLOBAN | 5J - 651 | Daily | DC9 | 0610 | 0720 | P2,899 | P2,569 | | P1,999 |
| | 5J - 655 | Daily | DC9 | 1210 | 1320 | | | | |
| | 5J - 657 | Daily | DC9 | 1410 | 1520 | | | | |
| ILOILO | 5J - 451 | Daily | DC9 | 0500 | 0600 | P2,779 | P2,449 | P1,849 | P1,599 |
| | 5J - 455 | Daily | DC9 | 0955 | 1055 | | | | |
| | 5J - 459 | Daily | DC9 | 1600 | 1700 | | | | |
| BACOLOD | 5J - 473 | Daily | DC9 | 0510 | 0610 | P2,779 | P2,449 | | P1,799 |
| | 5J - 475 | Daily | DC9 | 1000 | 1100 | | | | |
| | 5J - 479 | Daily | DC9 | 1650 | 1750 | | | | |
| ZAMBOANGA | 5J - 851 | Daily | DC9 | 0620 | 0750 | P3,667 | P3,239 | P2,179 | |
| ROXAS | 5J - 373 | Daily | DC9 | 0530 | 0630 | P2,539 | P2,199 | | P1,799 |
| DUMAGUETE | 5J - 627 | Daily | DC9 | 1340 | 1450 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P1,799 | |
| KALIBO | 5J - 339 | Daily | DC9 | 0900 | 0950 | P2,899 | P2,569 | | P1,999 |
| BUTUAN | 5J - 787 | Daily | DC9 | 1030 | 1135 | P3,645 | P3,239 | | P2,349 |

**ORIGIN: CEBU**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | PROMOTIONAL | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 558 | Daily | DC9 | 0600 | 0610 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P1,999 | P1,849 |
| | 5J - 560 | Daily | DC9 | 0700 | 0810 | | | | |
| | 5J - 562 | Daily | DC9 | 0900 | 1010 | | | | |
| | 5J - 564 | Daily | DC9 | 1100 | 1210 | | | | |
| | 5J - 566 | Daily | DC9 | 1300 | 1410 | | | | |
| | 5J - 568 | Daily | DC9 | 1500 | 1610 | | | | |
| | 5J - 570 | Daily | DC9 | 1700 | 1810 | | | | |
| | 5J - 572 | Daily | DC9 | 1900 | 2010 | | | P1,999 | |
| DAVAO | 5J - 593 | Daily | DC9 | 0800 | 0850 | P2,589 | P2,249 | P1,945 | P1,849 |
| | 5J - 597 | Daily | DC9 | 1450 | 1540 | | | | |
| ZAMBOANGA | 5J - 431 | Fri/Sun | DC9 | 1005 | 1100 | P2,649 | P2,319 | | P1,969 |
| | 5J - 433 | M/W/Th/Sat | DC9 | 1100 | 1155 | | | | |
| ILOILO | 5J - 164 | Daily | DC9 | 1750 | 1825 | P2,099 | P1,759 | P1,495 | P1,249 |
| RACOLOD | 5J - 126 | Daily | DC9 | 0810 | 0840 | P1,879 | P1,539 | P1,295 | P 999 |
| ...RK | 5J - 588 | Tu/F/Sun | DC9 | 1100 | 1220 | P2,995 | P2,689 | | P2,199 |

**ORIGIN: DAVAO**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | PROMOTIONAL | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 962 | Daily | DC9 | 0720 | 0900 | P3,667 | P3,239 | P2,288 | P2,288 |
| | **5J - 964** | **Daily** | **B757*** | **1210** | **1350** | P4,039 | P3,839 | P3,667 | |
| | 5J - 966 | Daily | DC9 | 1540 | 1720 | P3,667 | P3,239 | | |
| *Cebu Class Available | 5J - 968 | Daily | DC9 | 1820 | 2000 | | | P2,288 | P2,288 |
| CEBU | 5J - 594 | Daily | DC9 | 0830 | 1020 | P2,589 | P2,249 | P1,945 | P1,849 |
| | 5J - 598 | Daily | DC9 | 1620 | 1810 | | | | |
| ILOILO --via Cebu | 5J - 598/164 | Daily | DC9 | 1620 | 1825 | P3,645 | P3,195 | P2,595 | P2,199 |
| ZAMBOANGA | 5J - 393 | M/T/W/Th/Sat | DC9 | 1010 | 1110 | P2,649 | P2,319 | | P2,049 |

**ORIGIN: BACOLOD**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | PROMOTIONAL | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 474 | Daily | DC9 | 0930 | 1030 | P2,779 | P2,449 | | P1,799 |
| | 5J - 476 | Daily | DC9 | 1150 | 1250 | | | | |
| | 5J - 480 | Daily | DC9 | 1840 | 1940 | | | | |
| CEBU | 5J - 126 | Daily | DC9 | 0700 | 0730 | P1,879 | P1,539 | P1,295 | P 999 |

**ORIGIN: BUTUAN**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 788 | Daily | DC9 | 1235 | 1400 | P3,645 | P3,239 | P2,349 |

**ORIGIN: ILOILO**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | PROMOTIONAL | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 456 | Daily | DC9 | 1135 | 1235 | P2,779 | P2,449 | | P1,599 |
| | 5J - 460 | Daily | DC9 | 1740 | 1840 | | | | |
| | 5J - 462 | Daily | DC9 | 1905 | 2005 | | | P1,849 | |
| CEBU | 5J - 161 | Daily | DC9 | 0640 | 0715 | P2,099 | P1,759 | P1,495 | P1,249 |
| DAVAO --via Cebu | 5J - 161/593 | Daily | DC9 | 0640 | 0850 | P3,645 | P3,195 | P2,595 | P2,199 |

**ORIGIN: TACLOBAN**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 652 | Daily | DC9 | 0800 | 0910 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P1,999 |
| | 5J - 656 | Daily | DC9 | 1400 | 1510 | | | |
| | 5J - 658 | Daily | DC9 | 1600 | 1710 | | | |

**ORIGIN: CLARK**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CEBU | 5J - 589 | Tu/F/Sun | DC9 | 1300 | 1420 | P2,995 | P2,669 | P2,199 |

**ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | PROMOTIONAL | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 852 | Daily | DC9 | 1160 | 1320 | P3,667 | P3,239 | P2,179 | |
| CEBU | 5J - 432 | Fri/Sun | DC9 | 0830 | 0925 | P2,649 | P2,319 | | P1,969 |
| | 5J - 434 | M/T/W/Th/Sat | DC9 | 1235 | 1330 | | | | |
| DAVAO | 5J - 394 | M/T/W/ | Sat DC9 | 0830 | 0930 | P2,649 | P2,319 | | P2,049 |

**ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | PROMOTIONAL | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 382 | Daily | DC9 | 0715 | 0840 | P3,645 | P3,239 | P2,699 | P2,349 |
| | 5J - 384 | Daily | DC9 | 1135 | 1300 | | | | |

**ORIGIN: ROXAS**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 374 | Daily | DC9 | 0710 | 0810 | P2,539 | P2,199 | P1,799 |

**ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | PROMOTIONAL | 2-DAY ADVANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 628 | Daily | DC9 | 1530 | 1640 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P1,799 | |

**ORIGIN: KALIBO**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE | 2-DAY ADVANCE* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 340 | Daily | DC9 | 1030 | 1120 | P2,899 | P2,569 | P1,999 |

**INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS**

| FROM | TO | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ACFT | ETD | ETA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | HONGKONG | 5J - 110 | Daily | B757 | 0700 | 0900 |
| | | 5J - 118 | Daily | B757 | 1640 | 1840 |
| HONG KONG | MANILA | 5J - 111 | Daily | B757 | 1000 | 1200 |
| | | 5J - 119 | Daily | B757 | 1940 | 2140 |
| MANILA | SEOUL | 5J - 194 | M/F/Sun | B757 | 1340 | 1840 |
| | | 5J - 1944 | Th | B757 | 1340 | 1840 |
| SEOUL | MANILA | 5J - 195 | M/F/Sun | B757 | 1950 | 2250 |
| | | 5J - 1955 | Th | B757 | 1950 | 2250 |

NOTES:
- *All tickets are REFUNDABLE, REROUTABLE and UPGRADABLE to valid higher fare types. All issued tickets are NON-TRANSFERRABLE.*
- *Insurance surcharge of P250 per sector is applicable to all fare types.*
- *Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable to Normal Fares only.*
- *All fares are subject to government approval and are exclusive of government tax.*
- *All fares and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.*
- *2-Day Advance Purchase fares are subject to CAB approval and may change without prior notice.*
- *Cebu Promotional Value Fare valid on MNL/CEB 5J 557, 559 and CEB/MNL 5J 568, 572 only.*
- *Iloilo Promotional Value Fare valid on MNL/ILO 5J 451 and ILO/MNL 5J 462 only.*
- *Davao Promotional Value Fare valid on MNL/DVO 5J 961, 967 and DVO/MNL 5J 962, 968 only.*

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# Bacolods want cops to charge Ecleo ma, too

From page A1

charges for the death of my family. I believed that she is involved in the killing," Niño said.

He also blamed the congresswoman for hiding her son who is facing parricide charges for the death of his wife Alona Bacolod.

But Ecleo vehemently denied the allegations, even as she extended her condolences to the Bacolod family. "I would like to extend my condolences to the family. I feel sad when a chicken is killed, what more a person?" she said.

She also maintained that her son surrendered on his own will on Wednesday.

In Congress, two administration solons came to her defense.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez and Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers said no one could stop the Bacolod family from filing charges against the congresswoman, but they said she was actually instrumental in the eventual surrender of her son.

Barbers said that Representative Ecleo had sent five surrender feelers in behalf of her son to his father, Sen. Robert Barbers, after the police issued a warrant of arrest to the leader of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association.

"She was negotiating for his surrender . . . she was cooperating with the police," Barbers said.

Gonzalez, in a separate interview, said it would be difficult to get evidence to prove that the congresswoman had obstructed justice. Both Gonzalez and Barbers said they knew the members of the PBMA to be "peace loving."

Gonzalez said the 19 members who died in the firefight with the police must have been close followers of Ecleo.

### Severed ties

But even as the younger Barbers defended Ecleo, his father sought to distance himself from the Ecleo family.

Senator Barbers told reporters he was severing political ties with the Ecleos. He said that while he and the Ecleo clan belonged to the same political party, he believed the interest of the people and the search for justice should be above all political considerations.

"I will sever my political ties with them. That's the price I have to pay and that's the price of public service," Barbers said.

"If there's a conflict between politics and my quest for justice, then politics should take the back seat," he added.

The elder Barbers said that Ecleo's father, Ruben Sr., founded the anti-communist group and was revered by the people for his gifts as a faith healer. But the senator said he had no inkling that the young Ecleo was taking prohibited drugs.

He also said that Ecleo's mother had tried to arrange the peaceful surrender of her son to him before the shootout but said it never materialized because Ecleo was not cooperating.

"In fairness to her, she couldn't control her son. She really wanted to surrender him. But during the firefight, I told her to force the surrender of her son if she still loves him because he might get killed in the crossfire," he senator said.

Asked about the high-caliber guns used by Ecleo's supporters, Barbers said he was told that the armed supporters came from Cebu, Cotabato, Leyte and Samar.

As of yesterday morning, local police were seen already mixing with residents of San Jose, Barbers said.

"There was no untoward incident reported. I'm very happy to report that people were walking the streets peacefully, along with policemen," he said.

During his brief conversation with Ecleo in Camp Crame, Barbers said that the cult leader denied having killed his wife.

He also told Barbers that his eldest son would take over the leadership of the PBMA.

### Rich vs poor

"We are poor," Niño Bacolod told reporters. "We hope that some people will support us because we do not have money to sustain the case. The Ecleos are rich. They can buy everything," he said, weeping.

Niño lost his father, Elpidio, 65; mother Rosalia, 58; brother Ben, 36 and sister Evelyn, 32; on Tuesday night when a lone gunman opened fire on them while they were sitting on a bench outside Ben's house at Sitio Pinahagbong, Barangay Subangdaku, Mandaue.

A brother, Ricky, survived the attack with a minor wound to the head. But a neighbor, Sofronio Lactawan, who was fetching water nearby, was not spared despite pleas to spare his life.

The Bacolods were discussing the ongoing police assault on Ecleo's bastion on Dinagat Island when suspect Rico Gumolon suddenly appeared and fired on them.

Pursuing policemen later killed Gumolon after chasing him up to the Makro Department Store at the Reclamation Area in this city, less than a kilometer from Ben's house and about 200 meters away from the police station.

The remaining Bacolod siblings—Niño, Josebil and Ricky—believe that their sister's husband had a hand in the gruesome killing, something Cebuanos had not seen in recent years.

Incoming Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane assured the Bacolods that they would get justice. He said police investigators were doing their best to solve the case.

A brother of Gumolon and three PBMA members went to the Rolling Hills Inc. yesterday to fetch the gunman's body. But policemen from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas (CIDG-7) immediately held them for questioning.

The police found in the pockets of Jolly Gumolon, Eusebio Ayeng, Jun Prostero and Napoleon Tarol PBMA rings, red bandanas and prayer booklets.

Jolly Gumolon, who arrived from Oroquieta City yesterday morning, admitted to the police that he and his brother were PBMA members. But he denied any knowledge about the killings, saying he learned about his brother's death over the radio.

Ayeng, Prostero and Tarol said they did not know the Gumolons. They said they just accompanied Jolly Gumolon after he went to the PBMA chapter in Lapulapu City and asked them to help him claim his brother's body.

### Not killers

Representative Ecleo maintained that she, her son and the PBMA members were not killers.

"What do you think of us, in PBMA, murderers? You know, we are partners of the government in maintaining peace and order," she said in an interview over Cebu City-based radio station dyLA.

She said she was shocked upon learning of the massacre. The congresswoman then appealed to the police to look at other angles in the killing. She said it was possible that the Bacolods might have had other enemies. But Niño said it was unlikely that his family had other enemies because they just moved to Mandaue City.

The Bacolods used to live in Dinagat but were forced to leave and transfer to Mandaue in January following Alona's death.

# Overweight . . .

From page A1

The airline says it is trying to provide a comfortable flight for travelers seated next to large passengers.

"We sell seats, and if you consume more than one seat, you have to buy more than one seat," said Beth Harbin, a Southwest spokesperson.

Advocates for the obese are outraged.

"It's just discriminatory and it's mean-spirited," said Morgan Downey, executive director of the American Obesity Association. "This is singling out a group that's been very heavily stigmatized rather than making some accommodations in their cabins."

Downey, whose group has not received specific complaints about the airline's policy, says Southwest and other carriers should make wider seats because Americans are getting larger.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that more than one-fourth of Americans are obese.

Southwest, whose seats are 47-centimeter wide, does not weigh or measure passengers. Ticket agents can "make a judgment call" and ask an obese person whether he or she usually takes up more than one seat, Harbin said.

If the answer is yes, the person is asked to buy two seats.

The second seat costs the same as the original fare, unless the passenger is a walk-up customer paying the highest price.

In that case, the second ticket is discounted, Harbin said.

The passenger can get a refund later if the flight is not sold out, the airline spokesperson said.

Southwest said there was nothing new in its handling of obese passengers. Harbin said the carrier was following the same policy since 1980, although employees were reminded of the policy as the carrier began switching this week to a new automated boarding pass instead of its old, familiar plastic passes.

Several other carriers have similar policies, including Houston-based Continental and Fort Worth-based American, which requires purchase of a second seat for customers who "protrude extensively into an adjacent seat." Northwest Airlines allows the passenger to buy the second seat at the same price paid for the first seat rather than a more expensive last-minute rate.

"That's a compromise, and we're coming quite a ways with that. It's a very difficult issue," said Northwest spokesperson Kurt Ebenhoch.

Delta does not require obese passengers to buy a second ticket and tries to handle complaints by moving passengers to empty seats or other flights, a spokesperson said. United also does not require purchase of a second ticket, a spokesperson said.

Southwest said its double-ticket policy on obese passengers was prompted by complaints from other travelers.

Harbin, the airline spokesperson, said nine out of 10 letters to customer service came from passengers who were crowded by large neighbors.

The airlines said it didn't know how many times an obese passenger was required to buy two tickets, but they considered it rare.

Downey said his group was considering legal action or asking Congress to prohibit the two-ticket policy. *AP*

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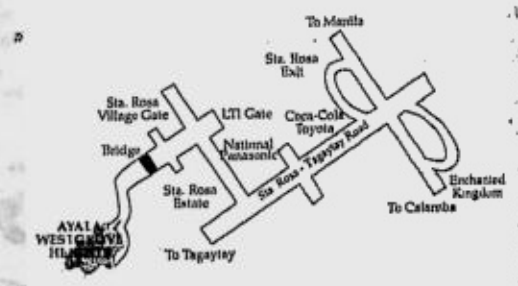


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*Photograph taken at the completed clubhouse*

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# SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

**European GP at Zeno**

FORMULA One racing aficionados can catch European Grand Prix action live via satellite this Sunday at Zeno, the new lounge located in the BMW showroom of Prestige Cars, in Libis, Quezon City. BMW-Williams fans in particular will surely enjoy the action from Nurgburgring, Germany while being surrounded by the latest BMW models displayed on the showroom floor.

## MBA CONFERENCE

# Eagles eye repeat over Gems today

**GAMES TODAY** (Mindanao Polytechnic)
3:30 p.m.—Davao vs Cebu
6:00 p.m.—Negros vs Cagayan

| North | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Osaka Pangasinan | 1 | 1 |
| Gilbey's Olongapo | 1 | 1 |
| LBC Batangas | 1 | 1 |
| Pampanga | 1 | 1 |
| **South** | **W** | **L** |
| Professional Davao | 2 | 0 |
| Cebuana Lhuillier | 1 | 1 |
| RCPI Negros | 1 | 1 |
| Casino Cagayan de Oro | 0 | 2 |

**PROFESSIONAL Davao seeks a repeat over Cebuana Lhuillier when they tangle at 3:30 p.m. today in the MBA National Conference at the Mindanao Polytechnic Gym in Cagayan de Oro City.**

The Eagles employed a crippling defense to beat the Gems, 76-65, in their first meeting Sunday night and another victory tonight would raise their pacesetting record to 3-0 in the Southern Conference.

The Gems, however, are raring to exact revenge and showed their capability to do this with a 97-91 overtime conquest of the RCPI Negros Slashers, the First Conference champions.

Gems coach Francis Rodriguez will surely devise ways to stop Jon Dan Salvador, Mike Manigo and Billy Mamaril who were responsible in spoiling their debut.

Salvador routed the Gems' big men inside the paint on Sunday, coming through with 22 rebounds and for sure Cebuana Lhuillier centers Willy Mejia, Allan Gamboa and Marc Pingris are raring to get back at Coach Bong Go's prized rookie.

Rodriguez, however, must also worry about Cid White, who pumped in 22 points in Professional Davao's 97-87 drubbing of Casino Cagayan de Oro Tuesday night, shooter Glenn Peter Yap and 2001 top discovery Peter June Simon.

Other than tightening their defenses, the Gems must also bone up on their scoring. Bruce Dacia, Stephen Padilla and Buboy Rodriguez, who were held to an unthinkable combined score of five points by the Eagles the last time out, are expected to come out with guns blazing today.

Rodriguez can also depend on Jercules Tangkay, Chris de Jesus, Roy Lura and Egay Echavez for the points as the Gems bid to gain a share of the lead with the Eagles.

• RPCI Negros also targets a repeat over Casino Cagayan de Oro in the 6 p.m. encounter.

The Slashers beat the Amigos, 103-94, on Sunday before getting waylaid by the Gems. The Amigos occupy the cellar of the eight-team field with two straight defeats.

PADILLA

## Moment of truth

CLEAN LIVING
*Manolo R. Iñigo*

THE ANNUAL World Slasher 8-Cock Derby, the biggest and most prestigious international event for cockfighting, winds up this evening after three days of pulse-pounding action pitting top American cocker-breeders against their Filipino counterparts at the Araneta Coliseum.

At the end of the two-day elimination round, four entries are setting the pace in this "Olympics of Cockfighting" organized by the National Cockers Association and sponsored by Thunderbird, makers of Enertone ready-mixed maintenance feeds. Chuck Berry of Oklahoma, banking on his unusually powerful fighting cocks carrying the entry name Firefly Thunderbird-CB, shares the lead with three local participants by scoring four consecutive wins. The Filipino frontrunners are Meycauayan Gladiator of Mayor Eddie Alarilla, Cat Stingers I of Jun Sevilla and Scepter at Mulawin of Frank Berin. They will be supported by other local entries such as former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud (Winning Time DVH-ESM-Jobo, 3-1/2 points), former World Slasher champions Jet Fernando and the Jingco brothers of Pampanga (Jinfer GP-Mulawin), Eddie and Bomboy Araneta (Liza Galore), Boy Primalon (BPZ Sunshine) and Romy Panganiban (Mulawin Argem Coliseum II, three points).

Who will win, nobody knows. But all eyes be focused on Chuck Berry, the hefty, confident and easy-going American cocker-breeder.

"I was in cockfighting at a very young age," Berry said in an interview. "I belong to a cockfighting family," stressed the blonde-haired American, adding that he learned a lot about cockfighting from his Ilocano friends who were workers at the construction company owned by his uncle in Louisiana where the original Berrys came from. "They taught me how to gaff the birds, fondle and condition them." Berry, who breeds mostly Hatches and Roundheads in his farm in Oklahoma, said he is hooked on cockfighting—notably in the Philippines—because of its honesty, sportsmanship and fair play.

**

**WHO RUNS DANCESPORT?** At the risk of being repetitive, May I stress again that the legitimate and official body that is running dancesport in the country is the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines led by its president Becky Garcia. It is the only, repeat only, dancesport group that is recognized and affiliated with the Philippine Olympic Committee. DSCP also supervises the Professional Dance Teachers' Association (Prodanz) headed by Cynthia Mamon, a member of the London-based World Dance and Dancesport Council, the governing body for pro dance. In short, all dancesport activities in the Philippines must carry the approval and/or blessing of the DSCP before these are accredited and legitimized. Without DSCP approval, any and all activities are unauthorized. Therefore, the council is warning the public to be wary of another group which is claiming to be the legitimate organization for dance in the Philippines.

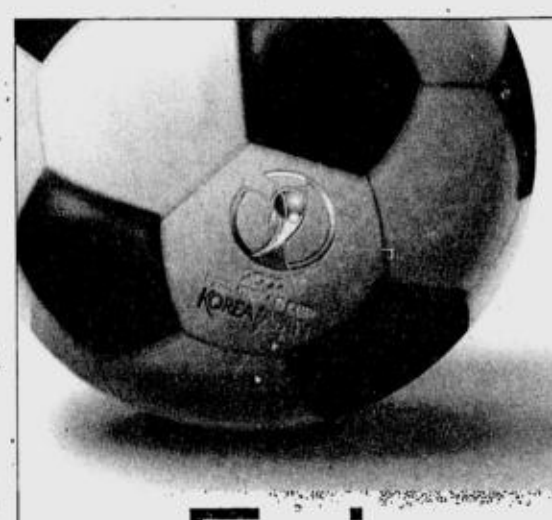
# 2 share derby lead

CROWD favorite Firefly Thunderbird-CB of noted American cocker-breeder Chuck Berry and never-say-die Meycauayan Gladiator of Mayor Eddie Alarilla shared the lead with two others at the end of the elimination round yesterday, scoring four straight smashing wins in the World Slasher 8-Cock Derby which enters its four-cock finals today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cat Stingers of Jun Sevilla and Scepter at Mulawin of Nonoy G. and Frank Berin also posted four points in this international derby hosted by Nene Araneta, Ito Ynares and the Firefly Group and sponsored by Thunderbird, makers of Enertone, the first ready-mixed maintenance feeds.

Lawyer Rudy Salud's Winning Time DVH_ESM-Jobo landed in the money with 3-1/2 points, followed by three pointers Jinfer GP Mulawin of former World Slasher champions Jet Fernando and the Jingco brothers of Pampanga, Otep DVH-Santiago City of Joseph Miranda, Liza Galore of Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Danny Boy of the derby hosts, BPZ Sunshine of Boy Primalon, Mulawin Argem Coliseum II of Romy Panganiban and L'Claga of Ting Ariosa and Beng Santiago.

The outcome of tonight's Slasher finals will carry much weight in the point tabulation of the Cocker of the Year race now hotly contested by R&B Farm 1 of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Rou and Spencer Winslet of William Co and Dicky Lim. R&B leads Spencer Winslet in the Coty standings, 73 points to 70. In the World Slasher, R&B leads Winslet, two points to 1-1/2.

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY In 1990, Chiang Kai Shek College beat San Beda College, 79-78, to retain the elementary division title of the 3rd Filipino Chinese Basketball League (FCBL)-Ting Brothers Memorial Cup at the Rizal Coliseum.


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# No minnows here: Brazil, England revive Cup rivalry

**SHIZUOKA, Japan—It's been called the World Cup for the minnows, but Brazil versus England is strictly a battle of barracudas.**

With a host of newcomers making history in the final eight, England and Brazil will be reviving theirs on Friday in a quarterfinal matchup steeped in tradition: the nation that invented soccer against its most decorated team.

"This could be the most important game of the Cup," Brazilian winger Roberto Carlos said.

It also pits the tournament's stingiest defense against its most prolific offense. England's back line has allowed just one goal in four games, while Brazil's swarming attack has scored 13–nine by strikers Ronaldo and Rivaldo.

"We respect the English, they have a great team, but we have players who can decide the game at any moment," Rivaldo said.

Brazil has won the World Cup a record four times, England once. Along with three-time champion Germany, they're the only past winners left in a World Cup of upsets and upstarts.

In the other games, Germany takes on the surprising United States, Spain faces co-host South Korea and World Cup debutante Senegal meets Turkey.

While Brazil holds an edge over England in their past meetings, rarely have they been more evenly matched.

After a disastrous qualifying campaign, Brazil got a late start on World Cup preparations and is just now hitting its stride. Coach Luiz Felipe Scolari calls his team "reasonable to good," but says it's still not playing up to potential.

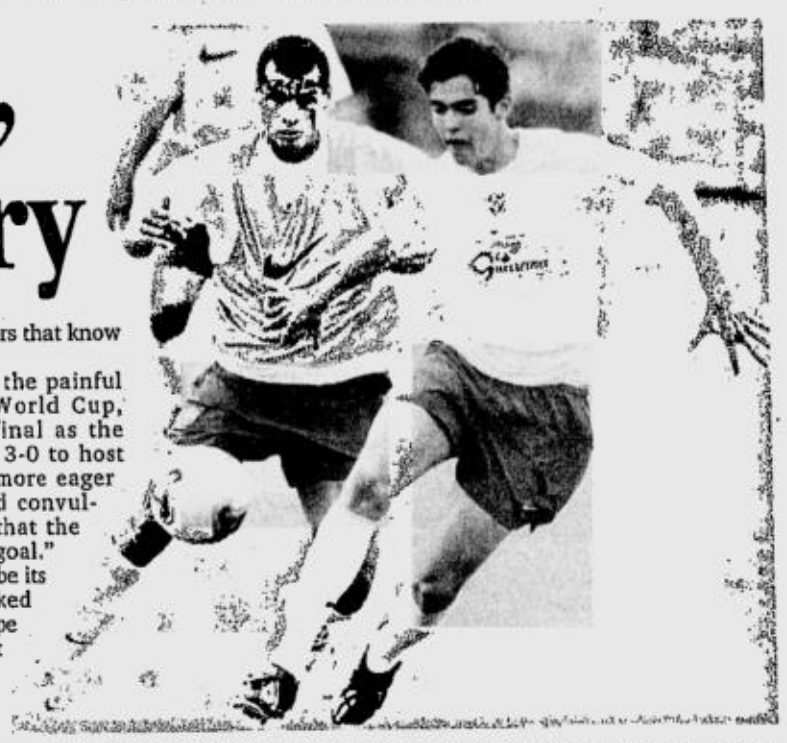
England, with field general David Beckham and striker Michael Owen, has added a ground game to its traditionally competent air attack. Backed by a granite defense, the British are more dangerous than ever.

"The English style has changed a lot from the old days," said Brazilian defender Edmilson, who plays for France's Lyon. "It's not only lofting balls into the penalty area. They have a highly technical midfield and quality players that know how to move the ball."

Brazil longs to erase the painful memories of the '98 World Cup, when it reached the final as the heavy favorite but lost 3-0 to host France. And no one is more eager than Ronaldo, who had convulsions hoe ball so well that the ball on his foot is half a goal."

Brazil's weak link may be its defense, which has looked shaky. Still, coach Luiz Felipe Scolari says he won't put special coverage on Beckham or Owen and has England figured out.

"I know everything about England," he said. "I know just what I'm going to do." *AP*



BRAZIL'S Rivaldo (left) and teammate Kaka play ball during practice yesterday in Miyakoda, Japan. Brazil plays England today in a match called "the battle of barracudas." AP

HISTORIC 3-0 SWEEP

# Ateneo seeks PBL title today

By Dennis U. Eroa

**GAME TODAY**
*(Makati Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee-Nenaco vs Blu Sun Power

**Best-of-five**
Game One: Ateneo 76 Blu 73
Game Two: Ateneo 82 Blu 76

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation seeks to put the exclamation mark in a memorable campaign as it battles back-to-the-wall Blu Sun Power in Game Three today of the best-of-five PBL Chairman's Cup championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

Looking every inch a champion team, Ateneo triumphed in the action-filled Games One and Two, but still needs to win one more time to join the illustrious list of PBL titleholders.

Game Three is set at 4 p.m. today. Ateneo topped the first game, 76-73, before posting a thrilling 82-76 double overtime win on Wednesday at the Pasig Sports Center.

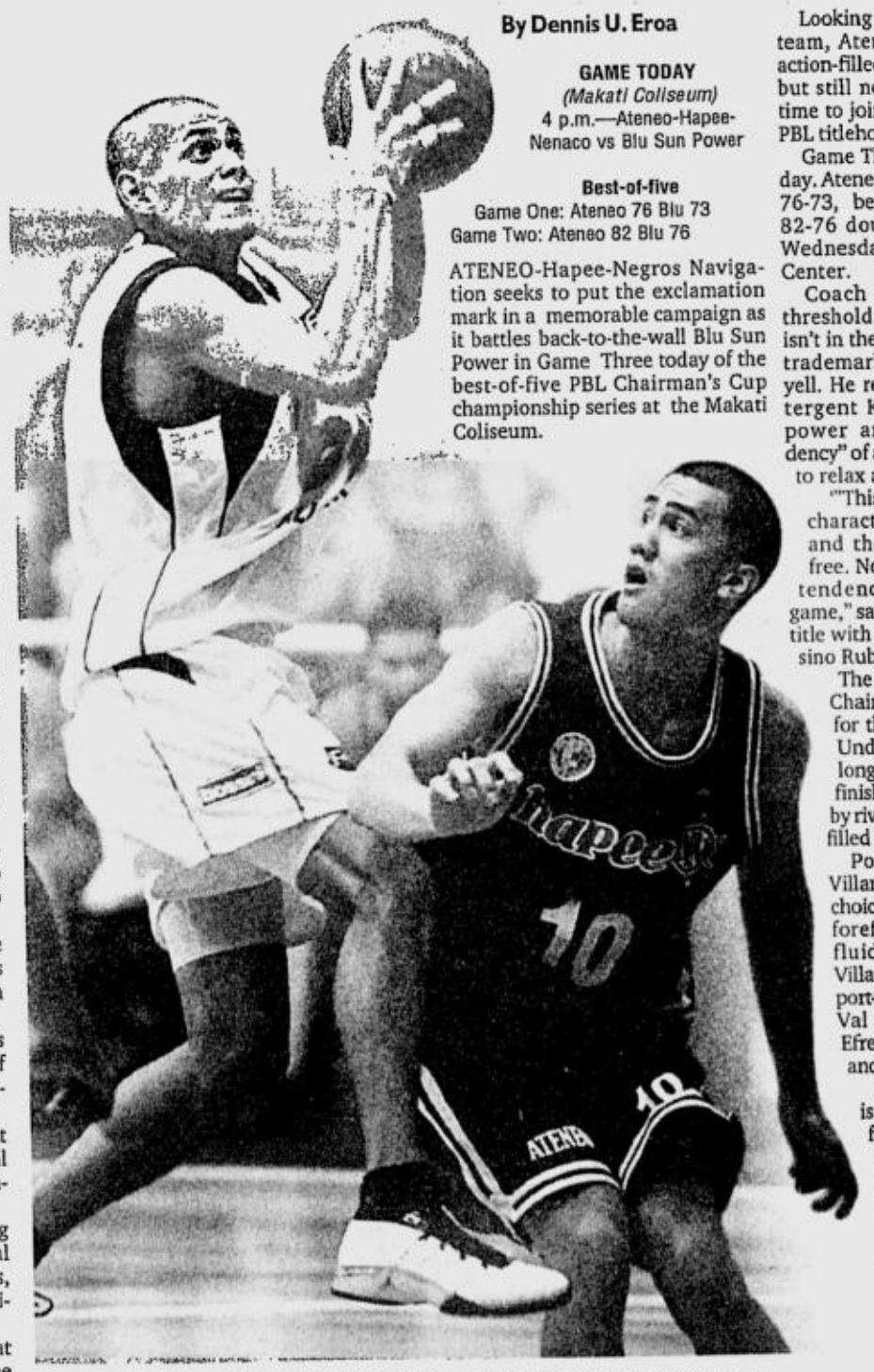
Coach Joel Banal, on the threshold of his third PBL title, isn't in the mood yet to sound the trademark Blue Eagles' victory yell. He remains wary of the Detergent Kings' proven staying power and the "natural tendency" of a team two games ahead to relax and lose Game Three.

"This is going to be a test of character. Blu can come back and they will play pressure-free. Now we have to avoid the tendency to lose the third game," said Banal, who won a PBL title with RC Cola (1991) and Casino Rubbing Alcohol (1996).

The Blue Eagles are using the Chairman's Cup in preparing for the coming UAAP season. Under Banal, Ateneo is no longer the fast starting, slow-finishing squad overshadowed by rival La Salle in the emotion-filled UAAP cage wars.

Power playing Enrico Villanueva, the runaway MVP choice, will again stand at the forefront of the Blue Eagles fluid attack. The 6-foot-5 Villanueva isn't lacking in support—Larry Fonacier, Jec Chia, Val Domingo, Andrew Cruz, Efren Valdez, Jeremy Aniciete and Wesley Gonzales.

MBA-bound Celino Cruz is also playing his best conference ever after a bemedalled stint with four-time champion Welcoat Paints. An astute playmaker, Cruz knows when to hit Villanueva and the other Blue Eagles. He is also deadly from the perimeter, aside from also giving ample support to Rich Alvarez in the power-forward position.



TRISTAN Codamon of Blu (left) takes a jump shot over Rich Alvarez of Ateneo on Wednesday. Ateneo won, 92-86. ROMY HOMILLADA

## Banal bonus

SPECTATOR

*Al S. Mendoza*

IF Ateneo fails to win today, it still has one more chance to do it.

But can it afford to allow Blu Sun Powder to spoil the party?

It can. But the trouble is, Blu will recapture the momentum should that happen.

The second game of the best-of-five playoffs for the PBL title on Wednesday was in itself the championship game. The mere fact that Ateneo survived two overtimes to nail a second straight win means that the Blue Eagles are almost ripe for the big time. That they can and are now able to pocket their first crown.

Look, did not the Los Angeles win the NBA title this year in Game 4, when Robert Horry flung that shot from afar that allowed the Lakers to snatch victory from the so-called jaws of defeat?

Gosh, this is the PBL, where the nation's top amateurs are gathered. While La Salle, the other university power, faltered this time (Ren Ren's departure for the PBA really hurt), Ateneo rose to the occasion in astonishing fashion.

The former whipping boy of the league, Ateneo toppled one tough team after another in a transformation that defies logic. This, in spite of the fact that the Eagles are being steered by a new coach, who is not even an Ateneo alumnus—Joel Banal.

I have to give it to Banal. Coming in fresh, almost a fisherman minus a net, Banal wasn't totally bereft of coaching talent. Before he moved to Ateneo, Banal was more than equipped with an arsenal dating back from years experience hauled from both the amateur and professional backyards of the game. He knows his basketball, having been a distinguished pointguard (at 6-foot-2 one of the tallest cagers to ever hold that position with distinction) himself during his heyday.

But one thing that struck me as a real amazing thing insofar as his attitude to coaching was when he beat his younger brother, Koy, during a crucial PBL game only a while back. I refer to that game pitting Ateneo against the Koy-mentored Kutitap.

Had Kutitap won that game, Koy's team would have had a smooth sailing in its dream to reach the finals.

But no. Joel put his foot down, breaching bloodlines in a rare display of sportsmanship.

Not to flatter Joel but I have always believed in his capabilities as a coach. His potential is great, that's why I wish to repeat that Bill Bayno really fished a Big One when he got Joel aboard to the Talk N Text Team in the PBA.

When Joel finally clinches his first crown for Ateneo, I wish he could give me a visit. That'd be a bonus for me.

I haven't seen him for ages.

## 65 teams enter Gentleman's Cup

TEAMS totaling 65 are expected to take part in the first First Gentleman's Cup, a fund-raising 18-hole tournament organized by Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's golfing buddies.

It is slated at the Wack Wack Golf and Country club's West course on Thursday, June 27, which is also the birthday of the tournament honoree.

"With three players forming a team, we expect 195 to participate," said organizing committee overall chair Col. Tony Cabangon Chua yesterday.

"Beneficiary of this tournament is Project Oyster," he said. "The acronym stands for Out-of-Youth Serving Toward Economic Recovery."

"I readily accepted to have my name associated with the tournament when my friends told me that the goal is to raise funds for the young," Arroyo said.

Salvador Malbarosa, the Wack Wack general manager and the tournament's secretariat chair, said yesterday that there would be two kinds of entry fees.

"Entry fee for a complete team of three players is P100,000 while entry fee for an individual player is P50,000," he said. "We will then look for two others to form their team."

"This early, in behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to express our gratitude to our sponsors as well as fellow golfers who would take part," Cabangon Chua said.

Also working side by side with Chua in the organizing committee are ways and means committee chair Jack KC Ng and co-chairmen Jimmy Tang and Alfonso Siy.

Wack Wack board member Pablo Son is the tournament chair while Wack Wack golf director Bones Floro is the tournament director.

Project Oyster is an emergency employment program led by President Gloria Macapagal arroyo in coordination with the Philippine National Police.

The country's police districts are carrying out the project in cooperation with national government agencies, local government units, business and economic associations, youth-oriented organizations and civic groups.

The project had its beginnings on Jan. 21 at Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City in the course of the President's consultation meetings with depressed communities.

**BIG CATCH**
Canadian businessman David Timbeck (right) is shown with partner Rey Buencamino (PGFF president) with their sailfish catch after ruling the recent Tootz Echauz sportfishing tournament in San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan. The Awards Night is on June 25 at Salsaki-Edsa.

## RACING TIPS

**At San Lazaro**
**By Mr. 999**

Race 1—1. West Pointer 2. Winter's Fury 3. Palachik 4. Spinning Bullet

Race 2—1. Smart Kevin 2. Fair Ringer 3. Diligence/Cameron

Race 3—1. May's Magic 2. Cheese Laffongga 3. Storm Princess 4. Magnicolo

Race 4—1. Fortius 2. Morning Glory 3. Nuts Again

Race 5—1. Divine Diva 2. Spectacular Queen 3. Exchange Deal

Race 6—1. Pep Up 2. Valiant Queen 3. Nobel Prize 4. Armee's Hope 5. Two Thumbs Up 6. Sir Matthew

Race 7—1. Dimasupil 2. Society Girl 3. Aeyu's Glory 4. Gleaming Heart/Red Dash 5. Perfect Date

Race 8—1. No Compromise/Pay Check 2. Silver Lining/Houdini 3. Reverie

Race 9—1. Simply Great 2. Run Doding Fly 3. Snake Dancer 4. Show Money 5. Fighting Words 6. Cristel Jay

## Gamo defeat Kyrgyzstan boxer

By Recah Trinidad

Seremban, Malaysia—Team Caltex had a slow start as only one of three fighters who saw action in Day One of the 21st Asian Amateur Boxing Championship won but the Filipinos were favored to pick up a couple of wins on the second day of the tournament yesterday.

Bantamweight Ferdie Gamo, who dominated tough Kadraliev Taalai of Kyrgyzstan to emerge winner on points Wednesday, was to seek a second RP win against Wannirat Rachchi of Sri Lanka.

Gamo was a slight underdog Wednesday owing to the reputation of his opponent who hailed from a former Russian state, but the Filipino started strong and sustained a two-fisted attack to score RP's first win in this prestigious tournament that has lured a total of 29 nations.

Lhyven Salazar, back-to-back gold medalist in the Acropolis and Bosnia tournaments, was also favored in his clash with India's Kumar Akir in the fourth bout of the Day 2 program at the oven-hot Paroi Stadium Thursday.

Flyweight Warlito Parenas gave it all in the initial outing of the national team Wednesday but was methodically outpointed by rangy Kim Won Guk, conqueror of Barcelona Olympic bronze medalist Roel Velasco in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games.

Middleweight Maraon Golez, an underdog, had his teammates and the crowd yelling in glee after he outpunched Haydrov Utkirbek of Uzbekistan in the opening round Wednesday.

He flicked wicked jabs and sharp straights in the second round and appeared headed for an upset win, but things turned around for the eager army man when Utkirbek broke out of his shell to put on a power-punching exhibition in the third round.

Golez was standing dazed at mid-ring when the referee mercifully halted the contest.

Featherweight Roel Laguna and light welterweight Florencio Ferrer will face tough Thai foes while lightweight Anthony Igusquiza fights a Japanese in Day 3 of the tournament today. Christopher Camat, who drew a bye, will see action on Sunday.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines President Manny Lopez said the RP team stint here, bankrolled by Caltex Philippines and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Revicon, will help determine the composition of the RP boxing team to the Busan Asian Games.

## Letran's Alas guest at Scoop

CHAMPION coach Loule Alas will be the main guest today in the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (SCOOP) at the Kamayan Padre Faura.

Alas, back as Letran coach, hopes to revive the Knights' glory days after bagging the back-to-back crown in 1998-1999 as he is set to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of his team in the forthcoming NCAA season.

Session starts at 10:30 a.m. and will be aired live over Sports Radio 918 a.m.

## Castillo equals longest hitting-streak record; Marlins nip Indians

MIAMI —Luis Castillo tied Rogers Hornsby's 80-year-old record for the longest hitting streak by a second baseman Wednesday, going 2-for-4 to make it 33 games as the Florida Marlins beat the Cleveland Indians 2-1.

Castillo was 0-for-2 before beating out a ground ball to the pitcher in the sixth inning, and then scored the tying run on Cliff Floyd's single. Castillo also had an RBI single in the seventh.

Julian Tavarez (5-3), with the Indians from 1993-96, pitched against them for the first time. He allowed one run and four hits in seven innings, and remained unbeaten in his past six starts.

ATHLETES' USE

# Pagcor supports ₱50-M dorms

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**PHILIPPINE Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain yesterday said the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. is ready to release by August the P50 million it pledged for the construction of two dormitories for the national athletes.**

Buhain added that on the same month, the ground-breaking event will also take place in the open space between the Ninoy Aquino Stadium and the Rizal Memorial track and field oval.

"It was assured to us by Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino during one of our meetings," said Buhain, who initiated the building of two five-story buildings for the national athletes. "Finally, that dream will be fullfilled and hopefully it would boost our morale for the Asian Games the following month."

Speaking of the Asian Games, the PSC has asked the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association to justify its request for its Asiad preparation which amounted to P3.2 million, according to Asian Games chief of mission Tom Carrasco.

Carrasco said Paca's request is the biggest among those asked for by the national sports associations taking part in the Busan Games. He added that the request includes purchase of cycling equipment, which had to be imported abroad.

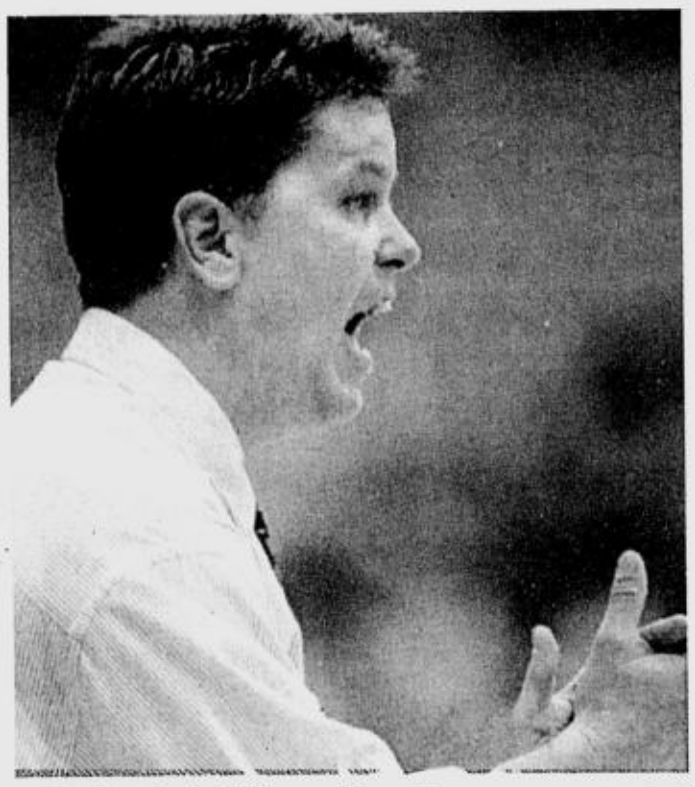
But PSC official in charge of the Asiad preparation, Tats Suzara, asked for a review of the request and sent back the proposal to Paca officials. "As far as the rest of the preparations is concerned, it is smooth sailing," said Carrasco, who added that there are so far 148 national athletes who have qualified for the Asian Games.

# Buhain enlists Guingona help

CHAIR Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission has requested the Department of Foreign Affairs to assist in the scouting of the country's rivals in the forthcoming 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. Buhain, in stressing the need to secure information about the Filipino athletes' rivals in the Sept. 29 to Oct. 14 games, asked Vice President and DFA Secretary Teofisto Guingona to utilize embassy and consulate staff in the Asian region for the endeavor.

"We would like to request the Vice President to issue a 'note verbale' to all our Philippine embassies and consulates in the region to gather information through newspaper clippings and team scouting," Buhain wrote. The PSC has tried in the past to secure information about the opposition but it is only in Buhain's term that the request was formalized with the DFA, according to Ariel Paredes, a member of the PSC panel of the Task Force on the Asian Games.

"We feel the need to scout the opposition and although the national sports associations have their own networks, we are supplementing the effort though the DFA," said Buhain.



CONE: All praises for Williams and Carawell. FILE PHOTO

# Alaska pounds SMB

By June Navarro

**GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)**
5:05 p.m.—Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia
7:05 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Ginebra

IMPORTS Ajani Williams and Chris Carawell combined perfectly to steer Alaska to a 77-69 victory over San Miguel Beer last night in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Williams and Carawell accounted for more than half of the Aces' output as they joined Talk N Text, Batang Red Bull and Coca-Cola in the winners' circle.

The 6-foot-9 Williams, who was born and raised in Jamaica, banged in 22 points, including a two-hand slam off a miss by Carawell that shoved the Aces to a 62-46 lead entering the final period.

"We're lucky to have imports (Williams and Carawell) who could carry the load for us. I also commend Robert Duat for coming out big in his coming out party for Alaska," said Alaska coach Tim Cone.

Duat dished out spectacular plays in his first game for Alaska, drilling in three triples and finishing 13 points and four rebounds.

Duat, a former San Miguel Beerman, was traded for swingman Bryan Gahol barely a week before the mid-conference started.

The Beermen found no answer to the unstoppable duo as imports Damon Flint and Jermaine Tate fumbled and groped in the dark all night long.

As a sign of surrender, the Beermen threw the towel in final three minutes when Flint was pulled out of the one-sided contest with the Aces in command, 75-60.

Meanwhile, Selecta-RP Team makes its debut today when the Nationals take on Barangay Ginebra at 7:05 p.m. at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Purefoods, which ruled the Governors Cup last conference, meets Sta. Lucia Realty in the other game at 5:05 p.m.

The Kings try to bounce back from a stinging 81-69 opening-day setback against Batang Red Bull.

**Scores:**

**ALASKA 77**—Carawell 25, Williams 22, Duat 13, Arigo 7, Allado 6, Santos 4, Noble 0, Feihl 0, Ordonio 0.

**SAN MIGUEL 69**—Flint 15, Tate 13, Lago 13, Belasco 12, Peña 10, Victoria 5, Mente 1, Gamboa 0.

Quarters: 18-10, 42-29, 62-46, 77-69.

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# Schumacher picked anew

F1 racing action resumes this Sunday with Michael Schumacher once again favored to rule the European Grand Prix at the fabled Nurburgring racetrack.

The F1 Club Live will be treating its members to another fun-filled evening of good food, cool drinks and exciting prizes at The Craic at 7 p.m. this Sunday. F1 Club Live's sponsors for the F1 raceday gigs are The Craic and Smart Communications.

Smart Communications and the F1 Club Live likewise announced the coming launch of the Smart F1 Club SMS service wherein Smart celfone subscribers may be able to access real time information regarding Formula One, its drivers and teams, points standings, etc.

"We'd like to invite all F1 aficionados to join us and experience a more enjoyable way of watching their favorite F1 drivers and teams in action on the F1 racedays," said Noli Tinio, president of Xtremeworx.

F1 Club Live members get the chance to win brand-new celfones in the "Pick the Top Three Finishers" game. Members may also win exciting giveaways in the raffles which will be held during the race. Single raceday membership to the F1 Club Live event is P300 which covers a drink and a chance to win the latest Smart celfones.

# Motocross 4th leg in Palawan

AFTER successfully winning the hearts of motocross fans in Iloilo, Cebu and Bacolod with its near-flawless performance, the Shell-Yamaha Racing Team sets out as the top favorite anew in the fourth leg of the WG&A Motocross Super Series in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan this weekend.

Led by Guam motocross champion Ernie Leongson and seven-time "Rider of the Year" awardee Jovie Saulog Shell-Yamaha seeks a fitting follow-up to its earlier victories in the southern swing of this prestigious, island-hopping series and keep the lead in the overall standings.

Leongson is favored in the pro open category, while Saulog is picked in the pro 125 class.

"We're ready. The team is confident that we can duplicate our victories in the past three legs of the series," said Leongson, who is hoping to wrap up his second national title since 1994.

Leongson said the absence of defending champion and former Shell-Yamaha rider Glen Aguilar in the previous two legs due to injury made things a lot easier for Shell-Yamaha this year.

Aside from Leongson and Saulog, the other Shell-Yamaha riders in strong contention for top honors this year are Puerto Princesa City-based Weng Yapparcon, Popeye Rubi, Pepo Rubi and Sam Tamayo.

## SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

**TENNIS:** Wimbledon Official Film 1999 at 8 a.m. (r), 2000 at 12 noon, 2001 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

Best of Wimbledon 2001 - Justine Henin vs Venus Williams at 8 a.m. (r), Pat Rafter vs Goran Ivanisevic at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

*Schedules subject to change without prior notice.*

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*Eastwood City Walk by night, actual photo*

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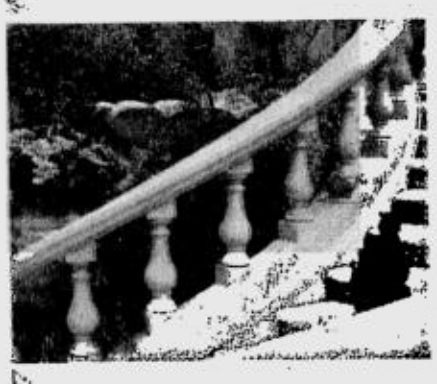

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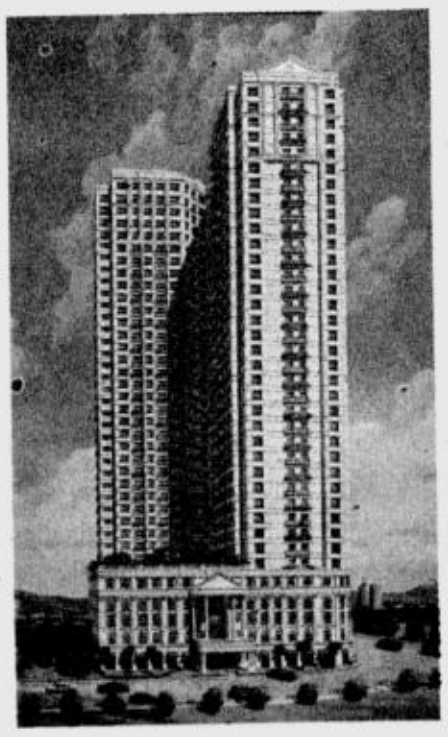

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# METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Depot users not top taxpayers, says mayor /A26

# Train cops in city, not jungle, says Biazon

By Allan Macatuno,
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*
and Vincent Cabreza,
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**SUBIC, Zambales— Still reeling from the tragic Pasay hostage drama where both hostage taker and hostage were killed last month, 285 members of the city's police force arrived here on Wednesday to start their 20-day training.**

The training began even as Sen. Rodolfo Biazon criticized police officials for making the Pasay officers train in urban terrorism defense in a "jungle" setting instead of a more fitting urban environment.

"That is my question," Biazon said, speaking in Baguio City. "The Pasay policemen are training in the jungles of Subic. They should be training in a bus depot, or in a building, or inside an actual bus. Is there a jungle in Pasay?"

TRAIN COPS/ A26

# American identifies Ativan gang

By Alcuin Papa

AN AMERICAN yesterday told Makati City policemen that members of the same group suspected of abducting a Korean diplomat two weeks ago were the same people who had victimized him last May.

Freelance travel photographer Carolus Julius Kuntze, 70, a native of Utah and a resident of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, filed a complaint against the group.

He told police that about 1:30 p.m. on May 22, he was waiting for a taxi in front of the Chinabank branch at the Pasong Tamo Tower near the Makati Cinema Square on Pasong Tamo in Makati when a well-dressed man wearing the bank's ID approached him.

Kuntze said the man identified himself as an executive of the bank.

He said he recognized the man, identified as Rodrigo Fabricante, in newspaper pictures, as the same man who had victimized him.

AMERICAN/ A26

**ASSUNTA AND ALESSANDRA**
**Manny Tangco makes a public display of affection with a pair of baby orangutans born in his Malabon Zoo. He named the babies after the popular De Rossi sisters of show biz.** JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

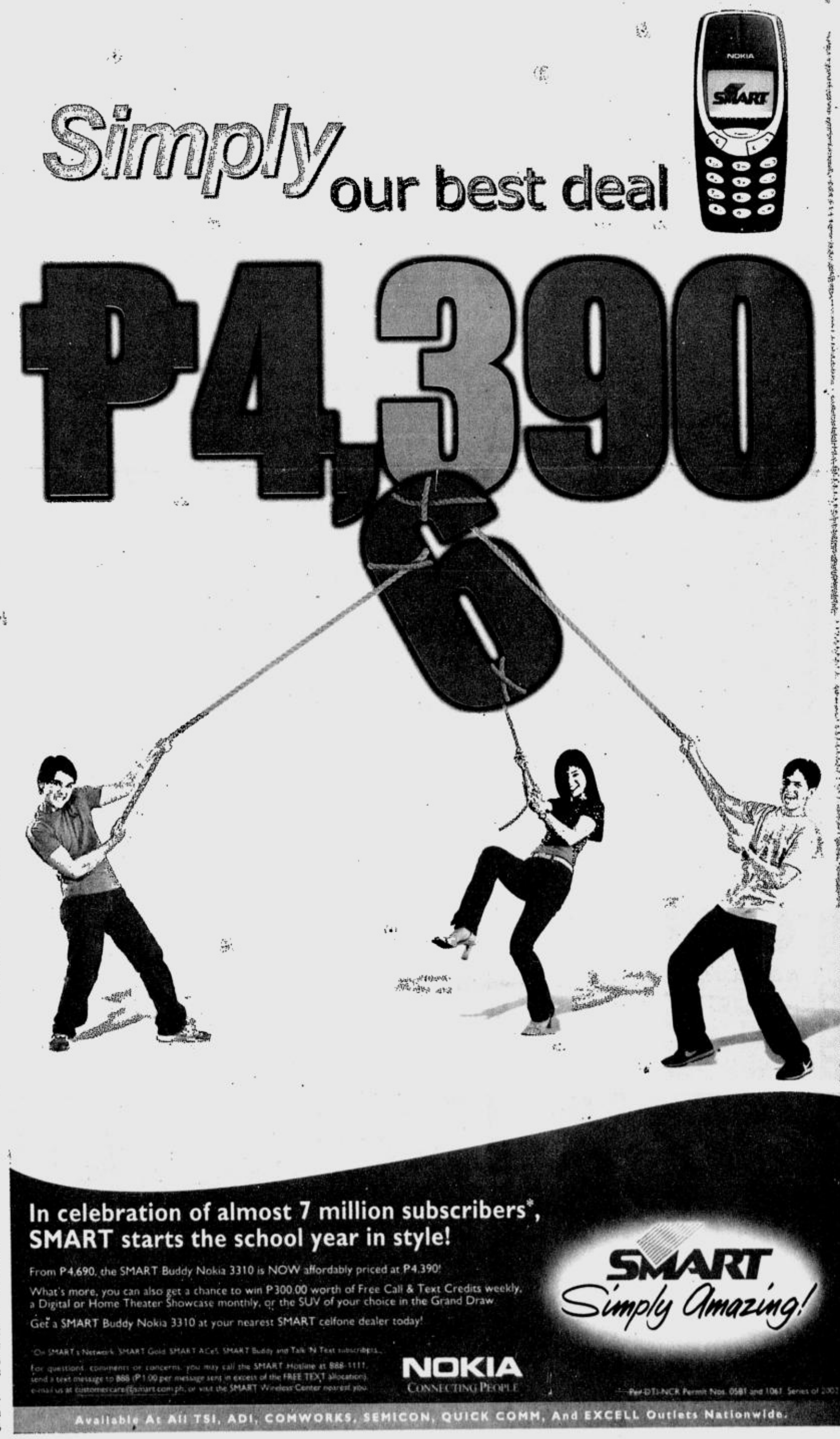
# Food, drinks and Manila Bay sunset

FOR four days starting today, Metro Manilans can enjoy good food at affordable prices as the top hotels and restaurants in Manila, especially the Malate favorites, set up food and beverage booths along the Roxas Boulevard seawall.

"For four nights, you can enjoy the world famous Manila Bay sunset, eat good food at very low prices and dance to the music of live bands," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza in a statement as he invited people to come to the food festival.

He said the city government decided to concentrate the Araw ng Maynila celebration in

FOOD, DRINKS/ A26

# GMA-7 cameraman beaten up by ABS-CBN guards

A CAMERAMAN of broadcast network GMA-7 is preparing charges against several security guards of rival network ABS-CBN for beating him up as he tried to enter the ABS-CBN compound for a news coverage.

Cameraman Rex Salas suffered serious injuries, including a badly bruised eye; after ABS-CBN guards took turns in beating him up.

Salas was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City.

GMA officials said Salas was responding to a tip about a person drowning near the ABS-CBN compound.

"It turned out that the incident was inside the ABS-CBN compound itself," said one network official.

The official said the ABS-CBN guards had allowed the crew of other TV networks to enter the compound to cover the drowning and to interview people, but the guards prevented Salas and the GMA crew from getting into the compound.

Salas argued with the guards and insisted on getting in, until the guards started beating him up.

Salas withdrew and the guards gave chase, continuing to beat up the cameraman while he ran.

The guards belonged to the Gold Link Security Agency.

## METROBRIEFS

### Fake NBI agent in Makati

MAKATI police arrested on Wednesday alleged holdup man Abel Dizon Suba, 35, of Barangay Cembo in Makati City, after victimizing Daisy Ranola. Police said Suba masqueraded as a taxi driver and an agent of the National Bureau of Investigation during his holdups. Ranola, 22, of Barangay Mayamot, Antipolo City, told police Suba held her up last May when she boarded his taxi in front of the Citadel Condominium in Barangay Poblacion, also in Makati, on her way to Cubao. But Suba brought her to Rockwell Center instead, introduced himself as an NBI agent and declared a holdup, Ranola said. She said that Suba took her P2,900 at knifepoint. Police said Suba was also responsible for the holdup of several other women. *Alcuin Papa*

### Murder in Manila

A WOMAN allegedly ordered the murder of Eduardo S. Rosal, 54, who was stabbed dead on Wednesday in his house on Macopa Street in Pandacan, Manila, police said. The unidentified woman was accompanied by a man, who stabbed Rosal once in the back. Police said Rosal and his wife were sleeping when the suspects entered their house, bound the hands of the couple, and took Rosal inside the bathroom where the unidentified woman ordered her male companion to stab Rosal. Authorities are having a hard time in solving the case as relatives of Rosal refused to talk, police said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

### Stabbed in Camarin

SHOE REPAIRMAN Sonny Rosales, 35, of Vanguard Street in Camarin, Caloocan City is now in critical condition after his neighbor Nestor Dahig allegedly shot him on Wednesday night over a land dispute, police said. Rosales suffered two gunshot wounds in the chest and is now undergoing treatment at the East Avenue Medical center. Police said Rosales and Dahig had a heated argument over ownership of a parcel of land. The two men almost came to blows, but bystanders pacified them, police said. Dahig left but returned with a .38 revolver and shot Rosales twice, police said. *Tina Santos*

### Suicide try in Kingswood

MAKATI police recently foiled the suicide attempt of Chinese national Gaoling Te, 30, who tried to jump from the 9th floor of Kingswood condominium on Pablo Ocampo Street, according to Mayor Jejomar Binay. In a statement, Binay commended police community precinct No. 5 headed by Insp. Restituto T. Laureano for personally informing him of the incident and for implementing his instructions relayed through radio that resulted in a successful rescue operation. He said the timely intervention of the police is a clear indication of the force's readiness to respond to emergency situations and render quick assistance to the public. Police said Te had a heated argument with her husband Ng Kimson Te when she threatened to jump off the 9th floor of the building. Laureano said he and his men cordoned off the area to prevent onlookers from gathering in front of the building. After 40 minutes of negotiations, police were able to convince the woman to come down.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Friday, June 21, 2002**
**11th Week in Ordinary Time**

**1st Reading:** 2 K 11:1-4, 9-18, 20
**Gospel:** Mt 6:19-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not store up treasure for yourself here on earth where moth and rust destroy it, and where thieves can steal it. Store up treasure for yourself with God, where no moth or rust can destroy nor thief come and steal it.

For where your treasure is, there also your heart will be.

The lamp of the body is the eye; if your eyes are sound, your whole body will be in the light. If your eyes are diseased your whole body will be in darkness. Then, if your light has become darkness, how dark will be the darkest part of you!"

**Commentary**

A certain philosopher said that the best proof of the existence of God is to see a good deed. The Pharisees were able to see how Jesus "went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him" (Acts 10:38), but they thought that Jesus was doing Satan's work. Why were many of his countrymen not able to recognize him and said that he was not doing God's work but Satan's? Their eyes were not sound and so they remained in darkness. In today's Gospel eye is conscience. Jesus emphasized that a misinformed conscience leads us astray and turns us in on ourselves. It is like turning off the lights of our car and driving fast in a dark night. You see nothing and fear everything. Conscience is the eye of people.

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missiona-ries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*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# Caloocan crackdown

**By Tina Santos**

CALOOCAN Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday vowed to crack down on traffic authorities collecting protection money from drivers of taxis and passenger jeepneys in illegal terminals in the city.

In a statement, Malonzo ordered an investigation of the allegations of extortion and vowed to punish any of his men who would be found involved.

"I will personally endorse the termination of service of any policeman and Metro Manila Development Authority personnel who will be found to have any involvement in the 'tong' collection here in Caloocan," Malonzo said.

The illegal terminals of FX taxis and passenger jeepneys have been blamed as one of the main causes of heavy traffic around the Bonifacio Monument area.

Jadewell Parking System Corp. operations manager Noel Manlapig earlier blamed MMDA traffic enforcers and the city's Department of Public Safety and Management for the traffic jams.

Jadewell and the city government have signed a memorandum of agreement on traffic management.

Malonzo dared Manlapig to substantiate his allegations. He said Jadewell should coordinate with him to solve the traffic problem.

Malonzo also urged sidewalk vendors to cooperate with the city government and not to obstruct traffic while plying their wares.

He said street vendors become willing victims of *tong* collectors because they themselves violate traffic laws.

## Benjamin and Benhur Abalos must compare notes—now!

**BARE EYE**
*Recah Trinidad*

SEREMBAN, Malaysia—The World Cup fever has also reached epidemic proportions in this placid retreat town of towering age-old trees and quiet, smiling people.

You see, some of the world's finest amateur boxers are fighting for honors in the 21st Asian Amateur Boxing Championship being hosted by the Malaysian government.

But wherever you go, in the hotel lobbies, the department stores, even in the meetings among officials of participating countries in the current boxing tournament here, the excited talk is, you guessed it, international soccer, the World Cup to be exact.

A similar scene cannot be expected in Manila today, when Brazil squares off with England in a clash of unbeaten World Cup favorites. But when the first whistle blows tomorrow, expect this town to make a full stop, listen and watch the live coverage of the much-awaited match.

***

**I find myself lucky enough that, unlike in Manila, the World Cup is being beamed live to the whole of Malaysia where football, the way people follow the conduct of the World Cup here, could be likened to a religion. You know, just like how the Pinoy worshipped in the basketball temples down there during the days of Yco-Ysmael, Crispa-Toyota and recently Barangay Ginebra.**

**Manila is no soccer town. With the obvious decline of following in basketball among Pinoy fans, the closest thing we could liken to the World Cup as far as native ardor and fanaticism are concerned is the forthcoming barangay election.**

**Blind followers and greedy self-styled village leaders are always ready and willing to do everything, beg, cheat, threaten, just to ensure their victory and perpetuate their reign.**

**In fact, as had been discovered lately from the new voters' list for residents of Barangay Vergara in Mandaluyong, the registry of voters, supposed to be sacred, had been wantonly and criminally tampered with.**

***

Sorry to repeat this here, but as we had suggested, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos might have to go back to his native Mandaluyong hopefully to contain a growing unrest among alarmed voters in Vergara.

Mr. Chairman, that anomaly was discovered on Tuesday when, after having secured a new voters' list for the barangay, one *kagawad* discovered to his dismay the rampant, wholesale disenfranchisement of nearly 200 voters in precincts 87 and 87-1.

Majority of the voters residing on G. Enriquez Street, who were openly identified with a group opposing the family of the incumbent barangay chair, have been excluded from the new list approved and issued by the local Comelec.

At last count, those who had been scratched out of the new official list already numbered 169, said the *kagawad* who had stumbled on the anomaly.

A later check bared that the raid and rape of Vergara voters who were openly opposed to the family of the incumbent barangay head was more widespread than earlier discovered.

***

**Well, the odd thing is this. I got two contrasting text messages yesterday as I was setting up to leave for the coverage of the Filipino boxers here.**

**Text No. 1 came from Pete Aguila, chief of staff of Rep. Manny Ortega and tireless supporter of the poor residents of Vergara. It reads: "OK na, reinstated na ang mga voters na tinangal sa listahan, Benhur called up Mandaluyong Comelec after you talked to Vic Victoria. Benhur's dad called Comelec later to formalize the action."**

**Very nice indeed. I have always known Benhur Abalos to be a sincere, honest action man, a lover of truth.**

**But then, please decipher this subsequent text, sent by Inquirer reporter Blanche Rivera, who has been assigned to keep track of the anomaly. It reads:" Sir, talked 2 Chairman Abalos, pnchek nya na daw (he had the case checked) d list u got was the old 1."**

**The list, which had been the basis of our last column, was an old one?**

**As we have stated, residents of the poorly served barangay could be thankful that the anomaly was discovered ahead of the forthcoming barangay polls.**

**Otherwise, if the fraud had surfaced on July 15, the poor voters would have ended up wetting their bed or crying in their sleep.**

**Benhur Abalos has acknowledged that the voters' list had been raped.**

**Not to worry, it was all fiction, his father, who obviously hated obscenity, tried to explain.**

**Now, who between father and son was telling the truth?**

# Depot users not top taxpayers, says mayor

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

THE TAXES paid in Manila by the oil firms that use the Pandacan oil depot are not commensurate to the cost the city government has to shoulder for the continued operation of the depot, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"The oil depot in Pandacan entails a lot of costs for the city government in terms of providing security and maintaining the road network that their (oil firms) fuel trucks use," Atienza said yesterday in a statement.

"It seems that the taxes that the oil firms are paying are not commensurate to the cost the city government (has to shoulder) with their continued stay," he added.

Except for Petron, the other oil firms operating in the depot are "not even among the top 10 taxpayers in Manila despite being a huge burden" on the city government, Atienza said.

He noted that Petron even ranked 10th and last among the city's top taxpayers, with Diamond Hotel and Manila Midtown Hotel paying bigger taxes than the oil firm.

But a sizeable police contingent is deployed to protect the oil depot, and the maintenance work by the city engineer's office on the roads the oil trucks use cost the city a sizeable amount, Atienza said.

He said these roads include Governor Forbes Avenue, Nagtahan Boulevard and Quirino Avenue.

He said that perhaps the oil firms should "relocate to areas where they actually pay the bulk of their taxes."

Despite his belligerent stand, Atienza said he would consent to the proposal of the oil firms that they downscale their operations, maintain a "common fuel distribution area," and put up a buffer zone, if these were "implemented immediately."

# Train cops in city . . .

From page A25

The Pasay policemen had been assailed for bungling the rescue of four-year-old Dexter Balala from hostage-taker Diomedes Talvo in the Philtranco bus terminal on May 31. Both Balala and Talvo were killed.

Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay, police director of the National Capital Region, was present as the policemen's training started, to boost the morale of the officers.

"Nobody can ever put a good cop down," Aglipay told the officers. "You represent the best of PNP. Our people will support us after this training."

The course includes physical exercises and a moral recovery program.

Aglipay said 21 Pasay policemen involved in the botched rescue are now under investigation. He said there was a great possibility that they would be dismissed from the service.

During the training, the policemen are discouraged from going home, but conjugal visits are allowed on weekends. They are also restricted from using their cell phones during classes.

Aglipay said the PNP allotted less than P500,000 for the training.

But Biazon said that the conduct of a rescue operation in a building is different from a rescue attempt "where the hostage takers are running around a jungle," he said.

Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, said police training must emphasize urban ground tactics, which consider a big population.

He said jungle rescue missions have a higher risk ratio compared to a rescue attempt in an enclosed environment such as buildings and bus terminals.

# American identifies . . .

From page A25

"He asked me where I was going so I told him I was going to Greenbelt," Kuntze related. He said the man offered him a ride, and they boarded a black Toyota driven by another man.

Kuntze said that in the car, the suspect offered him a can of orange juice, which he drank because it was "very hot and I was thirsty and impatient."

But after drinking the juice, he blacked out, Kuntze said. He said he woke up and found himself confined at the Ospital ng Muntinlupa.

He said highway police had found him unconscious on a road in Muntinlupa.

He said he lost his camera, lenses, some cash, his passport and other important documents.

He said it took him this long to report the incident to the police because he was waiting for the arrest of the suspects or for their pictures to appear first in newspapers.

SPO3 Dioscoro Asinas Jr. of the Makati City police theft and robbery section said they took down Kuntze's statement as basis for the filing of charges against the suspects.

"We hope other victims of the group will come forward once they see the pictures of the suspects," Asinas said.

Chung Young-ho, third secretary of the Korean Embassy in Manila, was found dead in Marikina City on June 7, a day after he was reported missing.

Chung was last seen on June 6 in the company of his friend Chung Han Young, who reported his friend missing the following day. Young told police that he and his friend had gone drinking with a man who befriended them who introduced himself as Robert Sambili and who claimed he was a vice president of Hong Kong-Shanghai Bank Corp.

Young said they had drinks at Paradise Videoke on Ortigas Extension in San Isidro, Taytay, and left after two hours. He said he asked to be dropped off on Meralco Avenue, leaving Chung in the car with Sambili and the driver.

Young told police he called up Chung on his cell phone at 10:50 p.m. He said Chung had told him the car was nearing his Makati residence. But Chung never reached home.

# Food, drinks and . . .

From page A25

the bay area to heighten public awareness of the performance of reviving Manila Bay.

The celebration includes Atiatihan groups performing on the first day and live bands performing nightly. Two stages will be built along the Roxas Boulevard promenade, one in front of Plaza Rajah Sulayman and the other in front of the Manila Diamond Hotel. The bands start playing at 7 p.m.

Tonight, on Stage 1 the bands are Legit Misfits, Marty Mcfly, Barbie's Cradle, COG and Six Digits; on Stage 2 are D-Coy, Mighty Man and Matma Emocore. On June 22 on Stage 1 are Aike, Girl in Park, Put3ska, Onda Latina and Brownman Revival, and on Stage 2 are Chinese Mafia, Eulito's Eye, DTS, Valley of C and Dica License.

On June 23 on Stage 1 are BB Clan, Stone Free, Red Boy and Zoom, and on Stage 2 are Madd Poets, Withetreesymbol and Forum. On June 24 on Stage 1 are Salbakuta, Barbie's Cradle and Rivermaya.

From June 21 to 24, the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard up to Plaza Rajah Sulayman in Malate would be closed to vehicular traffic from 5 p.m. onward.

The entire area surrounding the plaza bounded by Remedios and San Andres streets will also be closed to traffic.

Southbound vehicles will be rerouted to M.H. del Pilar and Mabini streets, and northbound vehicles to the north lane of Roxas Boulevard.

# Mikey to spend his own savings to wed Angela

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

*Leah Salterio*

PRESIDENTIAL son **Mikey Macapagal Arroyo** will spend a large part of his personal savings for his altar date with his second cousin **Angela Montenegro** on June 24.

No money will come from Malacañang or from Mikey's fund as Pampanga vice governor. President **Gloria Macapagal Arroyo** told her eldest son that this should be strictly followed. But she assured the 33-year-old Mikey that Malacañang will provide manpower support to the wedding, which will be held at the centuries-old San Agustin Church in Lubao, the hometown of the Macapagals in Pampanga.

"This is not an ordinary wedding, but there is no sky-is-the-limit budget," said **Miguel Miñana**, one of the coordinators who is in charge of the technical set-up for the wedding.

"Everything is calculated, so we have to keep tabs on everything that is being spent," he added.

Miñana, who organizes state dinners in Malacañang, said friends of Mikey and Angela pooled their resources and donated their services and other necessary things for the wedding.

The bride's close friend, **Bettina Aboitiz**, is the overall coordinator and is in charge of the invites, decors, flowers and food.

**Louie Heredia**, who is Mikey's cousin, agreed to sing in the church.

Violinist **John Lesaca**, whose wife **Malou** is the sister of First Gentleman **Mike Arroyo**, will play during the wedding ceremony.

The wide screen that will be installed outside the San Agustin Church was donated by **Rico Laxa**, a family friend of the Montenegros. The screen will show the wedding rites for Mikey's Pampanga constituents who cannot enter the church.

Lubao Mayor **Dennis Pineda** will provide alfresco lunch for *Kapampangans* who will attend the 10 a.m. wedding.

"After the ceremony, Mikey wants to mingle with his constituents, so he and Angela will join them for cocktails outside the church," Miñana said.

Lunch for 800 people will be later served in the inner courtyard of the church. Huge tents will be set up in an area covering about 900 square meters. The Plaza will be the lead caterer, while Cabalen is the support caterer, according to Miñana.

Security, traffic flow and parking for the guests have been laid out.

"Aside from the first family, there will be a number of politicians and show biz stars who will attend the wedding," Miñana informed. "We want to be sure that everything will be in order."

Dr. **Eleuterio "Teyet" Pascual**, one of the country's leading arts and antiques collectors, agreed to design the church and reception venues.

Pascual, who is known for grandiose, over-the-top and cutting-edge wedding and party designs, will also lend his candelabras, antiques, Philippine silver and angel porcelains for the wedding and the formal dinner reception. The decors will have the wedding's color motif of peach and celadon green.

**Toni Parsons** of 517 Flowers will adorn the church, Palace and reception venues with blooms.

Mikey and Angela will have two sets of clothes for the morning wedding and the dinner reception in Malacañang that same night.

After the wedding and the luncheon reception in Pampanga, the couple will be presented in a formal dinner party with 1,200 guests at the Malacañang Palace at 7 p.m.

The groom will have two barongs by **Pitoy Moreno**, while the bride will wear gowns by **Joe Salazar**.

The repertoire for the ceremony consists mainly of pop songs, with a few inspirational numbers, all chosen by the couple. They include "Somewhere," "Ikaw," "We've Only Just Begun," "All of My Life," "Promise of Love," "What Matters Most," "You," "You and I," "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," theme from "Ice Castles," "Of All the Things," "Ngayon at Kailanman" and "The Gift," plus "Tanging Yaman," "Lead Me Lord" and "The Prayer."

Print and TV media will have to get accreditation from the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) or the Media Affairs Relations Office (Maro) in Malacañang.

The TV coverage will not be exclusive to any network, according to Miñana.

On the wedding day, Mikey will come from Malacañang with his parents. Angela will be billeted at Mimosa Regency in Angeles, Pampanga, with her family, some members of the bridal entourage, Joe Salazar, hairstylist **Patrick Rosas** and photographer **Patrick Uy**.

Angela will be joined in the bridal car by her parents—**Herman** and **Charito Montenegro.** Her entourage will take a coaster.

Mikey is the first presidential son to get married in Malacañang.

**Jo Ramos**, daughter of former President **Fidel Ramos** and **Ming Ramos**, wed actor **Lloyd Samartino** in 1992. **Jackie Ejercito**, only daughter of deposed President **Joseph Estrada** and Dr. **Loi Ejercito**, exchanged "I dos" with **Beaver Lopez** in 1999.

Mikey will be the first of the three Macapagal-Arroyo children to get married. His younger brother, **Diosdado Ignacio Jose Maria** or "**Dato**," is also set to tie the knot next year with investment banker **Victoria Manotok**, daughter of **Rufino Luis** and **Cynthia Manotok**.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

**ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101**

| | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | DISKARTE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | MAGKAPATID |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | SCOOBY-DOO |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | MONSTERS BALL |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY) | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY) | SCOOBY-DOO |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY) | DISKARTE |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX MEDUSA / HIYAS SA PARAISO |
| ODEON | SUM OF FEAR |
| ODEON-2 | MAMASAN |
| ROBEN | DISKARTE |
| TANDEM-1 | ITLOG |
| TANDEM-2 | IKA-7 GLORYA |
| TIMES | COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2 |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | MAMASAN |
| REMAR | DISKARTE |
| REMAR-2 | MAMASAN |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | DISKARTE |
| B | MAGKAPATID |
| C | SUPER B |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | SCOOBY-DOO |
| CINEMA-2 | FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | DISKARTE |
| CINEMA-2 | MAMASAN |
| CINEMA-3 | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | MAGKAPATID |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | SUPER B |
| CINEMA-6 | UTANG NI TATANG |
| CINEMA-7 | CASS & CARY |
| CINEMA-8 | MAGKAPATID |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | KILABOT AT KEMBOT |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| CINEMA-11(SDDS) | MAGKAPATID |
| CINEMA-12 | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| CINEMA-14 | DISKARTE |
| CINEMA-15 | SUPER B |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| CINEMA-2 | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-3 | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| CINEMA-4 | MONSTER BALL |
| CINEMA-5 | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-6 | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PIÑAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ALIPIN NG TUKSO |
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |


POWER PLANT CINEMA

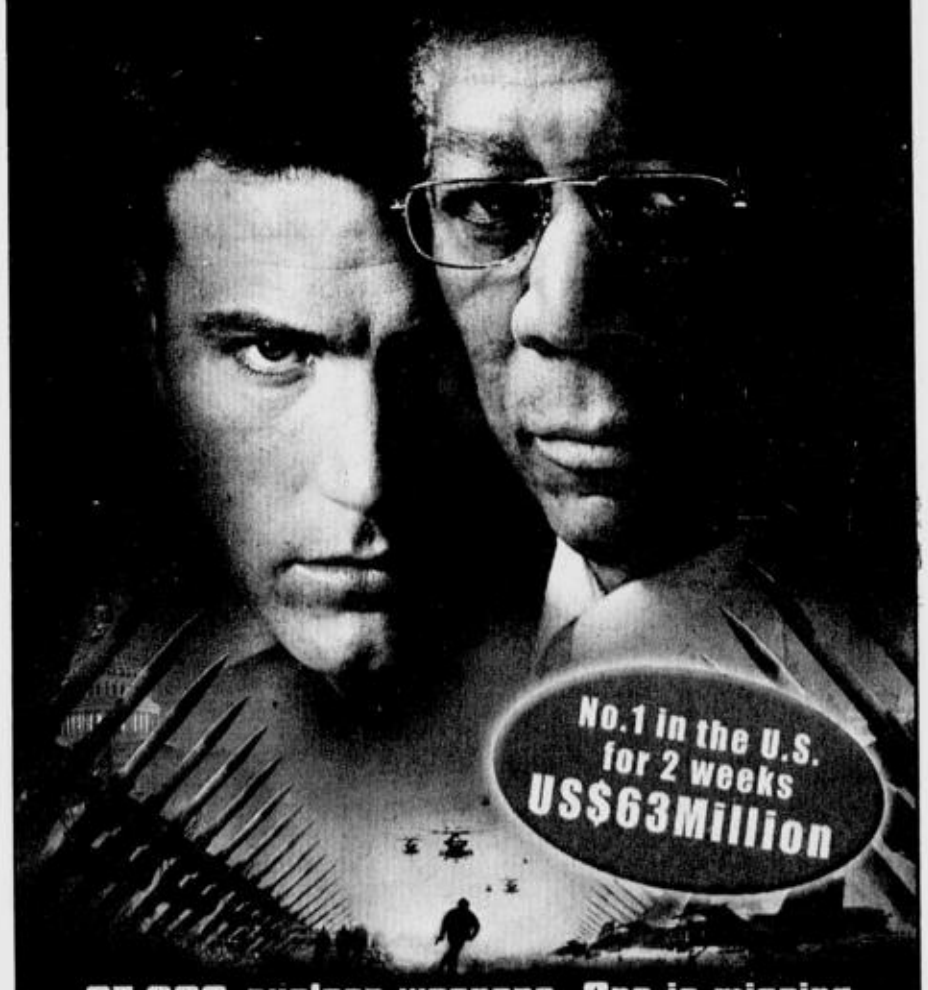
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 | SCOOBY DOO - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 | SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30 |
| MONSTERS'S BALL - R18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 | SCOOBY -DOO - GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 | SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 |

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

The Ultimate Nightmare!
A Nuclear Bomb Detonated in the US!




27,000 nuclear weapons. One is missing.

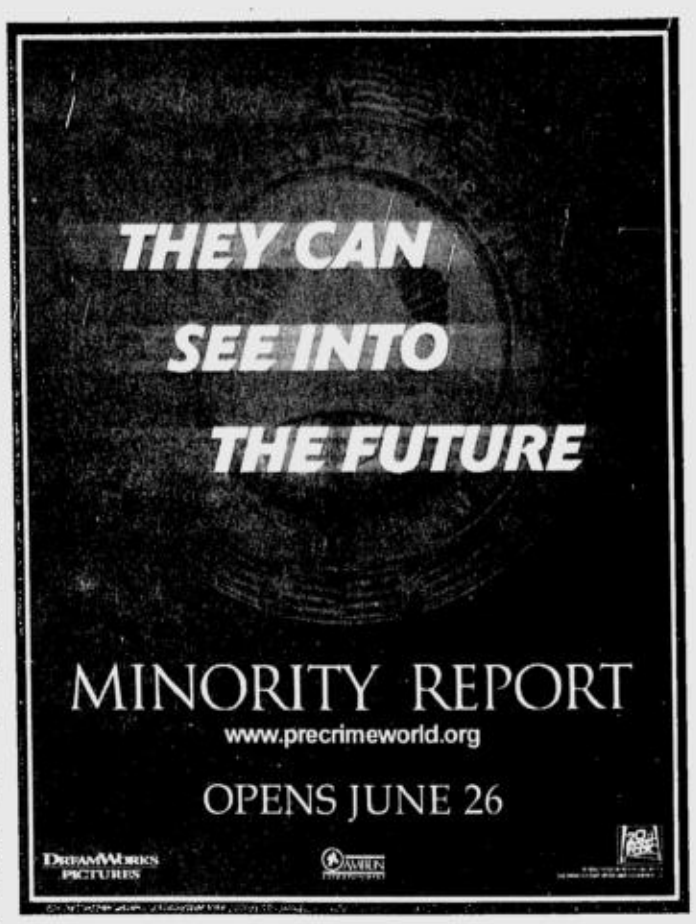
BEN AFFLECK MORGAN FREEMAN

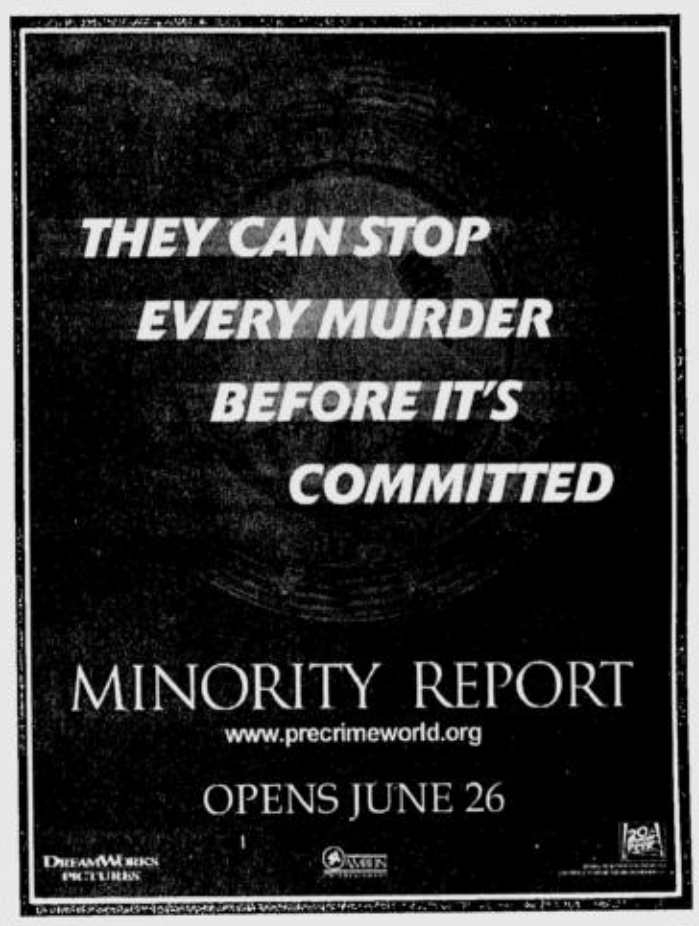
THE SUM OF ALL FEARS

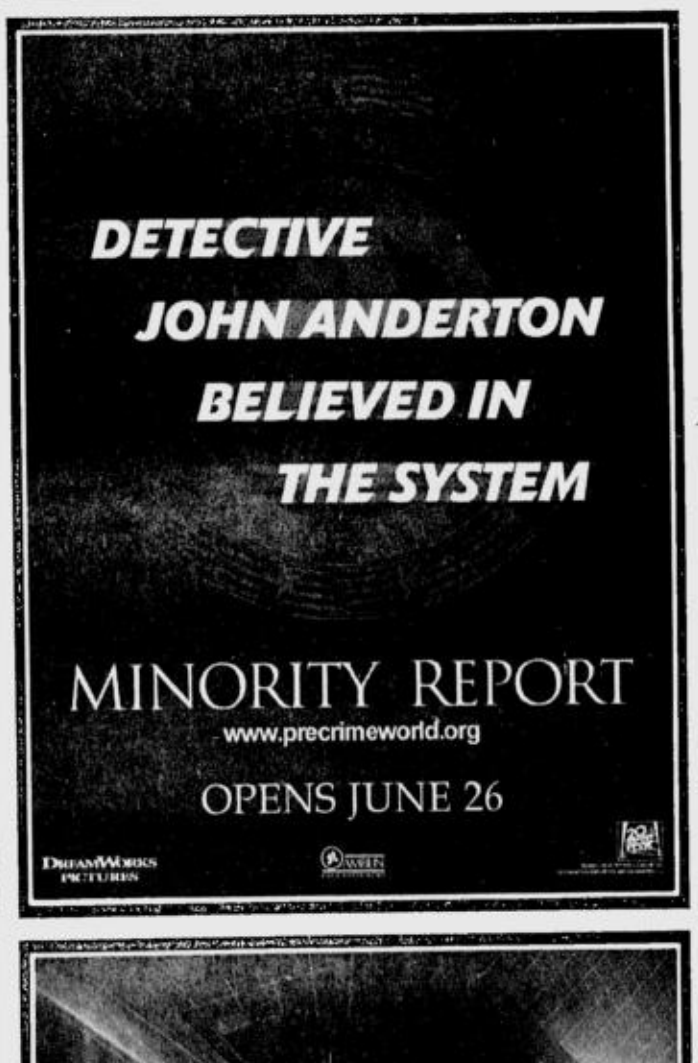
united international pictures

VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

NOW SHOWING



For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

## AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | G4 GLORIETTA 4 | GB1 GREENBELT 1 | GB3 GREENBELT 3 | ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS | 1 SCOOBY DOO<br>2 SUM OF ALL FEARS | 1 MONSTER'S BALL | 1 SUM OF ALL FEARS 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25, 12:00 | 1 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| 2 A WALK TO REMEMBER | 3 SUM OF ALL FEARS 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00 | 2 SUM OF ALL FEARS | 2 MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50 | 2 SCOOBY DOO |
| 3 MAGKAPATID | 4 MONSTER'S BALL<br>5 SCOOBY DOO | 3 SCOOBY DOO | 3 MONSTER'S BALL 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 | 3 SCOOBY DOO |
| 4 SCOOBY DOO | 6 MAGKAPATID<br>7 A WALK TO REMEMBER | QUESTIONS MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 21, 22, 28 & 29 | 4 A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15<br>5 SCOOBY DOO 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00 | 4 A WALK TO REMEMBER<br>5 MONSTER'S BALL |

# MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

### Filinvest

**FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOS) A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO
3 (DTS) SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 GOLD (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
5 GOLD (DOLBY) A WALK TO REMEMBER
6 GOLD (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 MONSTER BALL
9 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10 MAGKAPATID

**Pearl Plaza Cinemas**
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 DISKARTE
2 MAMASAN
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

**Masagana CINEMA**
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID

**starmall Movies**
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 MONSTER BALL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MAMASAN

**METROPOLIS star**
tel 850.4285

1 DISKARTE
2 MAMASAN
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 SUM OF ALL FEARS
5 MAGKAPATID
6 SCOOBY DOO
7
8

**PREMIERE CINEMA** (Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13 — THX
1 SCOOBY DOO

**Center Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 MAGKAPATID
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3

**Spring**
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 MAGKAPATID
A

**Sunshine**
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 MAGKAPATID
2 DISKARTE
3
4

### GOTESCO CINEMA

**Gotesco City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) DISKARTE
2
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 MAMASAN
5 MAGKAPAID
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 (DTS) MONSTER BALL
8 (SDDS) SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 (DOLBY)

**Gotesco Caloocan**
tel 362.3508

2 DISKARTE

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO
5 MAMASAN
6 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
8 SUPER B
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

**Gotesco Commonwealth**
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)
2
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 (SDDS) DISKARTE
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 (DOLBY) I THINK I'M IN LOVE
8

**Gotesco Ortigas**
tel 656.6795

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 (DTS) I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 SUM OF ALL FEARS
5 (SDDS)

**Universal**
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 MAGKAPATID

**Sampaguita**
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 DISKARTE

**Dilson**
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet
MAMASAN
I THINK I'M IN LOVE

**Mandaluyong**
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS

**Prima**
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

**Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto**
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3
4 MAGKAPATID
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS

**New Divisoria Mall**
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

**FRC Cinema**
Talisha Bacoor Cavite
KILABOT AT KEMBOT

1
2

**Berma**
tel 879.2029

1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID

**CitiMall**
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

### CINEMA 2000

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 536.2198

1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SUM OF ALL FEARS

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 DISKARTE
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
3 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MAGKAPATID

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1186

1 MAGKAPATID
2 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1 DISKARTE
2 SUPER B
3 MAGKAPATID
4

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 DISKARTE
3 (DOLBY) MAGKAPATID
4 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 869.1276

1 (SDDS) DISKARTE
2 SHIRLEY
3 MAMASAN
4 (DTS) MAGKAPATID

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 DISKARTE
5 SUPER B

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8863

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS

**Olivarez Los Baños**
tel (049) 249-2558

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 SCOOBY DOO

**Olivarez Tagaytay**
tel (046) 413.0311

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 BUKANG BIBIG
3

**Morales Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

**Cabuyao**
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO

**Fourstep**
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 CLOSED

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 SUPER B
2 MAGKAPATID
3 DISKARTE

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SUPER B
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 DISKARTE

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING — THX DOLBY dts SDDS

**SNEAK PREVIEW**

"BAD COMPANY"
ANTHONY HOPKINS
CHRIS ROCK
Date: June 24 & 25, 2002
THEATERS:
Gotesco City, Gotesco Grand, Gotesco Commonwealth, Gotesco Ortigas, Festival Alabang, Ali Mall

"LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT"
ANGELINA JOLIE
EDWARD BURNS
R-TIME: 1:43 RATING: PG-13
Date: June 24 & 25, 2002
THEATERS:
Gotesco City, Gotesco Grand Central, Gotesco Commonwealth, Gotesco Ortigas, Festival Alabang, Ali Mall, Cinerama, Masagana Pasay, Water Mart Calamba, Olivarez LS, Pavilion Biñan, Olivarez Biñan, Target Mall Sta. Rosa, Market Place, Premiere HX

# SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173869

1 SUPER B
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MONSTERS BALL
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 MAGKAPATID
7 DISKARTE
8 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

### SM CENTERPOINT
7140522 -7161416

1 MAGKAPATID
2 MONSTER BALL
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAMASAN
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 RESIDENT EVIL
9 DISKARTE
10 SUPER B

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 MONSTERS BALL
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 SCOOBY DOO
9 DISKARTE
10 SUPER B
11 MAMASAN
12 MAGKAPATID

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 SCOOBY DOO
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MONSTERS BALL
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 DISKARTE
8 MAMASAN
9 MAGKAPATID
10 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
11 MAGKAPATID
12 SUPER B

### SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 DRAGONFLY
2 MONSTERS BALL
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 SUPER B
9 MAGKAPATID
10 SCOOBY DOO
11 DISKARTE
12 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MAGKAPATID
3 DISKARTE
4 SUPER B
5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
6 MONSTER BALL
7 SCOOBY DOO
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

### SM SOUTHMALL
8809883

1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 DISKARTE
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 MONSTERS BALL
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 MAMASAN
7 MAGKAPATID
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10 SUPER B

### SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 PANIC ROOM
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 DRAGONFLY
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 MAMASAN
7 MAGKAPATID
8 SCOOBY DOO

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 CASS & CARRY
2 CLOSED
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 CLOSED
8 LIGAYA PANTASYA ...

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 DISKARTE
6 MAGKAPATID

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8204875

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 DISKARTE

### SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SUPER B

### SM CITY DAVAO
2978998

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 MAMASAN
4 CASS & CARRY
5 DRAGONFLY
6 SCOOBY DOO

### SM BICUTAN

1
2 SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3
4

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2 SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3
4

## THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

# MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

### Galleria 632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 MONSTER BALL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
8 MAGKAPATID
9 RESIDENT EVIL
10 DISKARTE

### Ermita 536-7809-12

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 DISKARTE
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MAGKAPATID
6 MONSTER BALL
7 SCOOBY DOO

### Metro East - Marcos Hway 682-8193 / 8280

1 DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MONSTER BALL
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 MAGKAPATID

### Novaliches 935-3229-30

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 SUPER B
5 MAGKAPATID
6 MONSTER BALL
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 DISKARTE

### Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 MONSTER BALL
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 DISKARTE
6 MAGKAPATID

### Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5 JIHAD WARRIOR
6 RESIDENT EVIL

### Iloilo 336-8077-78

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 PANIC ROOM
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 CASS & CARY
6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

### Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Parp. 875-1927 / 961-5318 / 5270

1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2 DISKARTE
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

Enjoy the biggest official movie entries to this year's Manila Film Festival starting June 12, 2002

* SUPER B
* DISKARTE
* UTANG NI TATANG
* MAMASAN
* I THINK I'M IN LOVE
* MAGKAPATID

For screening and other inquiries pls. contact 687-0533

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# Rowan Atkinson ups the comic ante

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

**ROWAN Atkinson**, the show biz world's top "speechless" comedian, returns to the big screen in the new comedy-adventure, "Scooby-Doo." TV's Mr. Bean comes on strong as Emile Mondavarious, the eccentric visionary behind Spooky Island, where Scooby-Doo and his human friends, the members of Mystery Inc., investigate a series of paranormal incidents.

Concerned that his popular resort might truly be haunted, Mondavarious hires the meddling detectives to get to the bottom of the spooky happenings on his island before they scare away the tony college crowd.

Atkinson says he liked sinking his teeth into Mondavarious' character: "He's got a duality to him that's deceiving and fun to play!"

Eventually, Mystery Inc. pegs Mondavarious down as a suspect. This adds yet another dimension for Atkinson to explore, thus upping the comic ante of his performance in the film.

Working with the modest but vastly experienced Atkinson was a real treat for star **Freddie Prinze, Jr.** "He's an absolute comic genius and such a delight to act with," he exclaims. "I had to try really hard to keep my focus when we were shooting together because he kept cracking me up in take after take!"

For her part, director **Raja Gosnell** shares, "I saw Mondavarious as a lovable eccentric, like the Wizard of Oz. Rowan brings all of his personal charm and the charisma associated with his TV and film personas to his portrayal of the mysterious resort owner.

"When the camera is rolling, he's wonderfully inventive and always looking for that perfect comic moment. He keeps asking himself, 'How can this scene be even funnier? Can we make it more real?' He's constantly creating as many opportunities as he can for himself and for the movie!"

"Scooby-Doo" also stars **Sarah Michelle Gellar** and **Matthew Lillard**. The title character is computer-generated, but interacts well with the film's live actors.

**'Brief Moments'**

"BRIEF Moments," the second issue of **Raymond Lontok**'s art books on underwear, is now available at all Bench stores.

Like the first book, "Brief Encounters," the photos in the second issue contains duotone and color photographs of top male models in their skimpy underwear.

The third and final book in Lontok's bare-all "trilogy" is currently being shot.

"Brief Moments" has 22 photos in color and 69 in duotone. It has nine pages devoted to "herbench," Bench's line of female underwear. All three books in Lontok's trilogy are published by Metropolis Publishing.

**Feedback**

SOME screenwriters have asked us about a number of scriptwriting contests that have been publicized in recent months. Are they on the up-and-up?, they want to know. Will those huge cash prizes that have been announced really be given to the winners?

Well, we asked around, and these are our findings: The big bone of contention appears to be the huge amount of money that the government has promised to give as an incentive for the writing of better scripts and the production of outstanding films.

That magnanimous gesture was most welcome. Trouble is, it appears that the money was promised to different groups. It isn't clear how official some of those pledges were, but it looks like some groups went ahead and announced plans to hold scriptwriting contests, etc., before the money had actually been formally awarded.

So, our advice has always been: don't be confused by conflicting offers, wait for the dust to settle, determine where the incentives fund has actually gone, and join *that* competition.

It's good that so many groups are avowedly interested in raising the standards of local filmmaking. Trouble is, good intentions aren't enough, and money is needed to really get things done in this regard.

Screenwriters should therefore exercise extremely good judgment, so their scripting efforts don't go for naught.

# Pops and Martin. . .

From Page A30

like Martin and Pops. I've been listening to Pops' "The Way I Feel Inside" CD a lot, but their rendition of her song "P'ano ba 'Yon" made the song so much more memorable, catchy and more poignant with longing.

The song speaks of a girl's fear that if she lets her male friend know that she's in love with him, and she has felt that way for a while, he might not react in the way she'd hoped for. What if he isn't ready to accept the love she has to offer?

From Pops, I found out that Martin had the minus-one of the song because he was learning the song so he could sing it on "ASAP" the next day. That night on stage was the first time they had tried singing it together, but they did what must truly be second nature to them after all these years. They sang together magically.

Martin's On Stage series has been extended through all the remaining Fridays and Saturdays of June. Please catch him while you still can. It will be one of your best weekend nights this year. Trust me.

**Mangan, at last**

FOOD lover that I am, I had somehow missed trying out Mangan. I know that two of the partners involved in the restaurant are Kapampangan, and I never doubted the food would be good.

A few nights ago, I finally got to try Mangan at Robinson's Place in Ermita, Manila. I was there to personally pick my month's wardrobe for "The Buzz" from Topshop, my clothing sponsor. We were still at the mall when my hunger pangs refused to be ignored, so together with my road manager **Ronald** and our friend **Bernard**, we sampled Mangan's dishes.

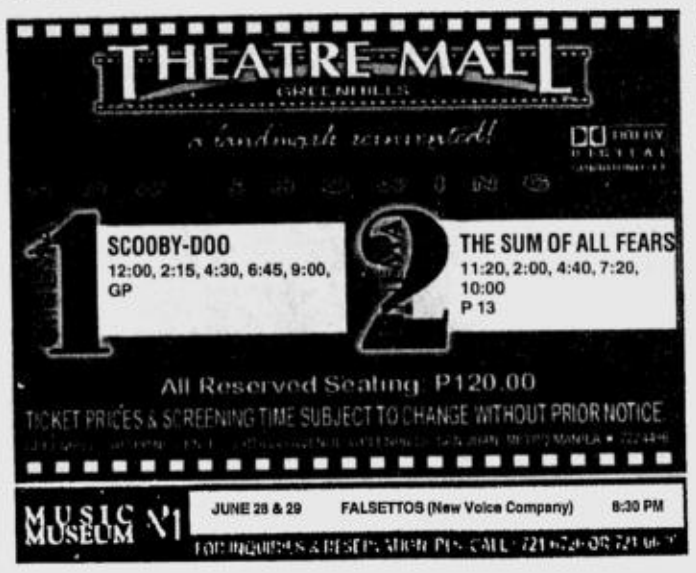
Mangan devised a great way for the diner to have soup, rice, and two viands, which it calls "*imbento*." We ordered *adobong pusit, inihaw na liempo, binagoongang baboy, adobong manok at baboy,* and *kare kare,* which was touted to be one of the their specialties.

The mongo soup, which started the meal, was excellent. It was flavorful and brothy, just the way I like it. I enjoyed the *adobong pusit* tremedously: dark, inky, and the meat firm. The *binagoongang baboy* was good but, in all honesty, Mama Rosa in Morato and in Eastwood City still makes the best version I've ever tasted.

I didn't get to try the *adobo*, but Ronald said the meat was succulent.

The *kare kare* was truly irresistible. The sauce was just the right consistency, and the orangey color was very appetizing, especially in contrast to the freshness of the *pechay* and string-beans which are my current favorite vegetables. The meat on the ox tail was tender and easy to peel away from the bone and the outer covering, which I don't eat. The *kare kare* ranks up there with the one served by Nay's catering in Tarlac. Very authentic, very satisfying, and highly recommended.

Mangan is creatively decorated, with great attention put into the right "retro-provincial" type of silverware, glasses, and plates. The service is attentive without being obtrusive, and the food is served very warm and freshly cooked. Prices are very family-friendly, too.



# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

# Pops and Martin still magical together

KRIS AND TELL

*Kris Aquino*

SATURDAY night, I accompanied **Pops (Fernandez)** to watch her boys perform with their dad in **Martin Nievera**'s "Opening Night" concert at On Stage. **Robin** can play the electric guitar like a seasoned rock and roller, and **Ram** can sing and move with innate ability. I knew Pops was nervous, but she shouldn't have been, her two boys are naturals.

Prior to the concert, Pops in turn joined me at the Mandarin to attend the 80th anniversary of Green Cross, the makers of Greenex which I now endorse. Pops and I were teasing each other that we are rediscovering each other's company now that we're both unattached again.

We were quite a sight because neither of us had any tissues with us and, during Martin's performance, we were both crying as unobtrusively as possible. Our tears started to flow when Martin sang a song that he dedicated to his sons. It speaks of a father who has to be away from his family because of his work, but through a phone call he reassures them that "I'm already there." It speaks of a father's unbreakable bond with his kids.

**Touching**

We cried even more during Martin's **James Ingram** medley. I've previously mentioned that "Just Once" is currently my theme song. Martin has a way of personalizing his lyrics, and Ingram's songs are the perfect way to address the ending of his relationship with Pops, with his unique ability to change a few words or lines to better suit his and Pops' past situation.

His version of "There's No Easy Way to Break Someboy's Heart" is so touching. And you love Martin more because he's so willing to share so much of himself, his emotions, and his shortcomings.

I just knew, though, that it was very hard for Pops to sit there, very near the stage, and appear unaffected while Martin sang to his audience about their lives. As she told me after, "*Di ako bato* (I'm not made of stone)."

**Deserving**

Martin's stamina, both physical and verbal, is simply amazing. You have to experience watching him perform live for nearly three hours for you to realize that he undeniably deserves the "concert king" title.

I must say that no other performers can do a duet, blending and harmonizing effortlessly,

POPS/A29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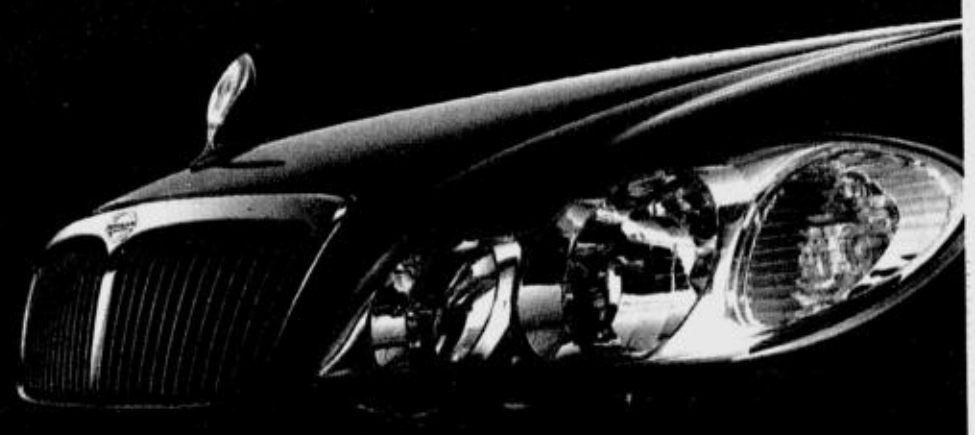

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FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

B1

# Pangilinan to bank on law, not cash

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel V. Pangilinan is rethinking its strategy to put up a management buyout package to foil the takeover of PLDT and Bonifacio Land Co. in favor of a purely legal battle.

Sources close to PLDT admitted to the INQUIRER that Pangilinan's camp believed that it was difficult to match the Gokongwei deal on the PLDT portion—which amounted to P1,130 per share—but had found other ways on how to block the deal.

The sources said threats of a management buyout were simply a "smokescreen" but this did not mean that PLDT was giving up the fight, as officials believed that a counter-offer was not the only solution to the corporate squabble.

Pangilinan is currently in Tokyo to woo the second biggest PLDT stockholder, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, to foil the Gokongwei deal.

Today, however, officials of First Pacific Co. Ltd. are scheduled to sit down with NTT executives to neutralize any opposition to the deal.

SEODONO SALIM

GOKONGWEI

Other sources from the Pangilinan camp confirmed that blocking the deal through legal obstacles was the top priority in lieu of a management buyout, but maintained that the latter could still be an option in the future.

The sources noted that a counter-offer was more firmly being structured on the BLC component of the deal, as PLDT officials were confident that the legal stumbling blocks on PLDT itself would be enough for now.

One loophole that PLDT officials found out in the transaction, the sources explained, was that the PLDT shares that First Pacific had committed to infuse into a $925-million joint venture with the Gokongweis were not legally owned by the Hong Kong-based conglomerate. Legal ownership of most of the shares, the sources said, had been transferred to Pangilinan through various shell companies.

The sources close to PLDT claimed that First Pacific took back some of the PLDT shares a few years ago to ease a liquidity crunch but Pangilinan instead gave back shares out of his own personal portfolio, thus making the PLDT president the beneficiary of more shares used to be legally controlled by First Pacific.

As such, the sources said PLDT believed it could prevent the sale of shares because First Pacific was not the legal owner of all those shares in the first place. Should the issue be raised in court, the officials said they were confident that PLDT would enjoy a "homecourt advantage."

But a source from the Gokongwei camp said that questions on the legal ownership of shares would not be enough to block the deal.

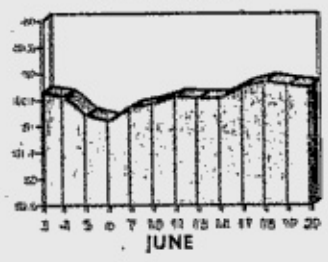
"Philippine laws recognize beneficial ownership rather than legal ownership. First Pacific is still

PANGILINAN/ B5

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR




GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.25 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 20, 2002

¥123.81 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 20, 2002

GOLD: $321.20/321.70

per ounce Hong Kong, June 20, 2002

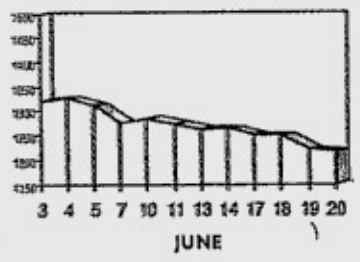
### STOCK MARKET

**Shares down 0.3%**

SHARE prices ended 0.3 percent weaker yesterday after local conglomerate Benpres Holdings Corp. defaulted on interest payments on its debts, dealers said.

"Investors were spooked by Benpres' announcement that it defaulted on interest payments on two of its loans. Investors are nervous," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX




(See stock market report on Page B2)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 3.06 points to close at 1,217.28.

Turnover plunged to 90 million shares worth P317 million compared to 334 million shares worth P704 million traded on Wednesday.

"It's all in line with the weakness of the global stocks led by the US," said Michael Ricafort of Equitable PCI Bank. "We are now testing the crucial support at 1,200" points.

He said the emerging general outlook is that the United States will push back any rate increases to late 2002 or even next year instead of August as earlier expected, with the US economy still showing signs of weakness.

Benpres shed 3 centavos to 47 centavos.

Benpres earlier announced it would not make interest payments falling due this week on two loans worth nearly $200 million, and that it plans to reschedule its outstanding debt of $600 million.

AFP

# Gov't to scale down revenue target for 2003

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL government plans to scale down the revenue goal of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for 2003 to factor in continuing shortfalls but is confident that the budget deficit cap of P98.43 billion will be attained.

A source from the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee yesterday said the fiscal targets for next year would be revised, but noted that the government was determined to achieve a lower budget deficit compared to this year's target of P130 billion.

The DBCC source said the government, for instance, was planning to lower the revenue target of the BIR for next year by the amount of revenue shortfall it would incur this year.

The source estimated that the BIR's revenue goal could be slashed by P10 billion to as much as P30 billion from the original target of P505.66 billion for 2003.

The BIR's revenue shortfall was attributed to lower tax payments from key industries, which, in turn, were due to the country's sluggish economic performance.

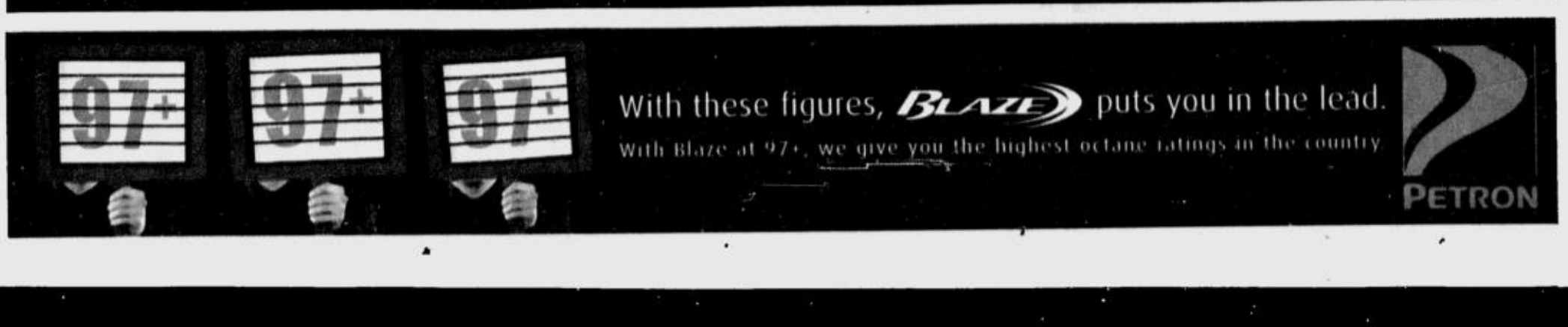
However, the source said the government would stick to its target of fiscal balance by 2006. From a P98.43-billion programmed deficit for next year, the government plans to reduce the gap to P43.76 billion in 2004 and P21.86 billion in 2005.

For next year, the government was originally hoping to collect P683.02 billion in total revenues, equivalent to 15.7 percent of the country's projected gross domestic product for 2003.

The BIR pumps in the biggest portion of the government's revenue collection equivalent to 11.6 percent of GDP.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin earlier said the government would pursue further expenditure cuts for the rest of the year owing to the BIR's sharp revenue shortfalls.

Last year, the DBCC likewise scaled down the BIR revenue goal by P20 billion, allowing the agency to overperform compared to the new targets.



LONG-TERM DEBT PAPERS

# Benpres credit rating downgraded

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Rating Services Corp., an affiliate of Standard & Poor's, yesterday announced that it has downgraded its rating of Benpres Holdings Corp.'s long-term commercial papers to PRS C or "in default."

Benpres, the flagship holding company of the Lopez family, disclosed to regulators earlier this week that it failed to pay interest payments on the LTCPs Monday and could not make the interest payments for its $150 million in outstanding euronotes last Wednesday.

Philratings' downgrade of the Benpres paper following the default, however, stood in stark contrast to its previous rating of PRS Baa or a lower end investment grade rating on the instrument last September.

Benpres said it was trying to work out a rescheduling of its debt maturities covering $597 million in obligations, including $189 million in direct debt and $408 million in guarantees to be called on.

Benpres obligations falling due include $150 million in euronotes maturing in December, and the P2 billion worth of LTCPs late next year. Benpres also guaranteed the redemption of Bayantel preferred shares in 2003, with an accreted value of $167 million and has an obligation to purchase Bayantel shares from option holders, valued at $52 million, exercisable this October.

Benpres has hired Credit Suisse First Boston as financial adviser, tasked to pursue a balance sheet management program.

In a statement, Philratings noted that Benpres' negotiations to reschedule debt should give it ample time to liquefy investments in certain companies, for instance the units involved in tollroad, property development, cable and a small interest in ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

"The timing of such divestments, however, continues to remain highly uncertain. The company has already identified its media/broadcast and its power investments as the core business to pursue going forward," Philratings said.

Philratings noted that Benpres, as a holding company, relied on dividends from subsidiaries for its cash flow but the funding needs of these subsidiaries limited the amount that could be remitted in the short to medium term.

In 2001, Benpres posted a loss of P10.2 billion arising mainly from its provision for losses for non-productive investments, particularly from telecommunications unit Bayantel.

# RP debt yields edge lower as gov't caps rates

PHILIPPINE debt yields edged lower again yesterday with sentiment remaining upbeat after the Bureau of Treasury moved to cap an upsurge in rates at auction, traders said.

The decision by Treasury to reject all bids for a three-year bond offering on June 4 and the partial awards made at a recent treasury bill sales has given heart to investors who bought paper at lower levels and faced losses from a rates spike.

"The market is a little bit more comfortable, the rejections helped," a local commercial bank trader said.

However, players were still wary over how the government would finance its ballooning budget deficit that threatens to outstrip its full-year target of P130 billion.

Most of the deficit financing comes from government debt auctions and the possibility of increased offerings of paper has put upward pressure on bids in recent weeks, traders said.

With sentiment calmed for now by the rejections and central bank comments that overnight rates should remain steady for the rest of the year, interest in some shorter-end bonds has picked up again, traders said.

"I heard there were done deals in three-year T-bonds at 10.1 percent and fours at 11 percent," the local bank dealer said.

The three-year bonds in particular were being sought because of the wide yield spread with two-year paper, she said.

"Some people appear to be trading on that differential."

She noted that bid yields on average were off around five to 10 basis points on the day while offer rates also dipped as some players sought to try and trim holdings.

The growing bullishness in the market was reflected at Tuesday's auction when an offering of two-year T-bonds was heavily oversubscribed, with the coupon rate falling to 8.875 percent from 9.5 at the last offering of the paper on April 2. *Reuters*

**DIGITEL EXECS VISIT ALCATEL THAILAND**

**Lance Gokongwei, JG Summit Holdings executive vice president (3rd from left) and Digitel Mobile Communications CEO Charles Lim (right) view Alcatel's corporate Intranet over GPRS capability, which allows e-mail and Internet/Intranet access from anywhere in the country using a mobile phone, laptop or PDA. It can download data from the Internet at up to 160 kbps. The Digitel executives were welcomed by Emmanuel Chaumeau, GPRS program manager for mobile networks division of Alcatel Southeast Asia (2nd from right).**

# PLDT to provide high-speed service to Punta Fuego resort

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has signed a broadband and landline service provision agreement with Punta Fuego developers Roxaco Land Corp. and Landco Pacific Corp.

Under the agreement, PLDT will provide the necessary facilities going to the exclusive residential resort in Batangas, while Roxaco and Landco will provide the physical structure that will house PLDT's equipment in Punta Fuego.

With the agreement in place, Landco president Alfred Xerez Burgos Jr. said in a statement yesterday that current homeowners would be encouraged to stay in the resort, while it could also serve to attract potential customers.

"Before PLDT's (digital subscriber line), the most convenient communication tool for homeowners is the cellular phone. This gives them an alternative for communication, especially for homeowners who may have great responsibilities in business and may need Internet access or make lengthy long distance calls," he said.

He explained that PLDT's provision of high-speed broadband Internet service inside the residential resort would be a "boon to the homeowners of Punta Fuego" as it would complement the existing underground facilities in the resort by providing bundled services for the residents.

"Homeowners may now be able to establish their remote offices here in Punta Fuego if they want. Downloading of huge files over the Internet or other networks would be no problem with this high-speed access to the Internet," Xerez Burgos added.

The project required PLDT to link Punta Fuego to its DFON (domestic fiber optic network) with a 12.5-kilometer high-capacity fiber optic cable. As an added bonus, this will prepare PLDT for future expansion in other areas in Batangas.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said the project was in line with the company's goal to expand DSL coverage nationwide and to help uplift the local economy by attracting local and foreign investments in tourism-related endeavors.

"We continue to expand our DSL coverage to bring the benefits of this technology to as many people as possible. Punta Fuego is one avenue for attaining this goal. This is also our way of attracting investors, both local and foreign, in residential resorts like these to help uplift the local economy in terms of employment and attracting tourists," he said.

The agreement's signatories include Xerez Burgos, Pangilinan, Roxaco Land Corp. president and Club Punta Fuego chair Pedro Roxas and Punta Fuego Village Homeowners' Association Inc. chair Eduardo Roxas.

Punta Fuego is an 88-hectare luxury residential resort project of Landco in partnership with Roxaco, the real estate arm of the Roxas family.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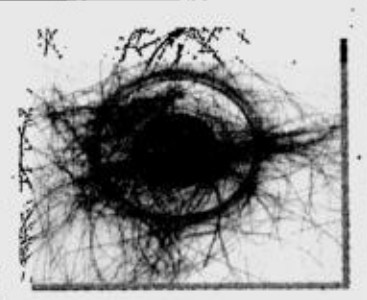

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, June 20, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 20 | 20 | 19.75 | 20 | 576,000 |
| Banco Filipino Sav & Mort | 85 | 100 | 85 | 100 | 200 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 50.5 | 51 | 50.5 | 50.5 | 415,900 |
| China Banking Corp. | 630 | 635 | 630 | 635 | 1,080 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 3,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 35 | 35.5 | 35 | 35.5 | 98,100 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 35.5 | 36.5 | 35 | 35 | 604,400 |
| Philippine National Bank | 34 | 34 | 33.5 | 34 | 9,000 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 500 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 13.75 | 14 | 13.75 | 14 | 13,100 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 22 | 22 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 19,300 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 18,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 224 | 224 | 224 | 224 | 100 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1085 | 1100 | 1085 | 1100 | 3,800 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 3,000 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.72 | 0.75 | 0.72 | 0.74 | 4,140,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 630 | 640 | 620 | 635 | 5,070 |
| Piltel | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 510,000 |
| Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co. | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 10,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 392.5 | 392.5 | 382.5 | 385 | 124,980 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.014 | 0.015 | 11,500,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 22 | 22 | 21.75 | 21.75 | 8,300 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 32.5 | 33 | 32 | 32.5 | 1,718,300 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1,300,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 175,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 480,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 147,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.36 | 2.38 | 2.36 | 2.38 | 582,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 2.26 | 2.26 | 2.26 | 2.26 | 59,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Fortune Cement Corp. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 30,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.22 | 2.22 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 20,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 158,300 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 180,000 |
| RFM Corp. | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.04 | 1.06 | 356,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 47.5 | 48 | 47 | 48 | 73,100 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 56.5 | 57 | 56.5 | 57 | 158,400 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 340,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 2,900,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.3 | 2.32 | 2.3 | 2.32 | 9,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 180,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 200,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 102,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 200,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 10 | 10 | 9.8 | 10 | 3,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.46 | 0.47 | 8,880,000 |
| A Brown Company Inc. | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 150,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 150,000 |
| Ebecom Holdings Inc. | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 2,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.26 | 1.28 | 1.26 | 1.28 | 150,000 |
| F&J Prince Holdings Corp. | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.85 | 50,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 22 | 22.5 | 22 | 22 | 100,300 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 50,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 5,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.62 | 1.66 | 1.62 | 1.66 | 55,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 20,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 20,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.3 | 0.32 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 4,320,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 110,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.55 | 0.72 | 0.55 | 0.67 | 170,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.33 | 0.34 | 0.33 | 0.34 | 300,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.085 | 0.085 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 1,600,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 20,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 5,000 |
| Metro Alliance Holdings | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 10,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 740,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.47 | 980,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr) | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25 | 25.5 | 203,800 |
| Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr) | 775 | 775 | 775 | 775 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series R | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 400 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 500 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10.5 | 10.75 | 10.5 | 10.75 | 800 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 400 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 3,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 11,281,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 2.02 | 2.02 | 2.02 | 2.02 | 88,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 50,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 650,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 360,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 1,760,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 2.48 | 2.48 | 2.46 | 2.48 | 1,527,000 |
| City & Land Developers | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 20,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1,030,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 300,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 90,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 3,196,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Dizon Copper Silver Mines | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 10,000 |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.033 | 0.035 | 12,100,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 1,000,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 500,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.24 | 0.25 | 200,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 10,000,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.33 | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.35 | 310,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 1,762,480 | 63,225,000.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 43,779,650 | 167,812,710.00 |
| PRO | 20,352,000 | 64,995,870.00 |
| Mining | 13,810,000 | 779,700.00 |
| OIL | 10,310,000 | 138,800.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 90,014,130 | 316,952,080.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 490.81 | DOWN 0.23 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,697.35 | DOWN 3.89 |
| PRO | 514.66 | DOWN 4.99 |
| Mining | 1,271.97 | UP 6.70 |
| OIL | 1.30 | UP 0.09 |
| All Shares Index | 719.84 | UP 0.03 |
| Composite | 1,217.28 | DOWN 3.08 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 28; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 50; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 97; NO. OF TRADES: 1,763

## CURRENCIES

| June 20, 2002 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.044168 | 1.000000 | 50.0870 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008434 | 0.008077 | 0.4046 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.557168 | 1.491300 | 74.6947 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.133870 | 0.128207 | 6.4215 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.679753 | 0.650999 | 32.6066 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.677943 | 0.649266 | 32.5198 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.585066 | 0.560318 | 28.0646 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.590259 | 0.565291 | 28.3137 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.769825 | 2.652661 | 132.8638 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.278438 | 0.266660 | 13.3562 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.580900 | 0.556328 | 27.8648 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000121 | 0.000116 | 0.0058 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024807 | 0.023758 | 1.1900 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.284305 | 0.272279 | 13.6376 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000850 | 0.000814 | 0.0408 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.957700 | 47.9683 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.295798 | 0.283286 | 14.1889 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.387447 | 0.371058 | 18.5852 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134514 | 0.128824 | 6.4524 |
| India | Rupee | 0.021379 | 0.020475 | 1.0255 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.274818 | 0.263193 | 13.1825 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.107370 | 0.102828 | 5.1503 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.508730 | 0.487211 | 24.4029 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.135798 | 0.130054 | 6.5140 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017405 | 0.016669 | 0.8349 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.102249 | 0.097924 | 4.9047 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.110084 | 0.105427 | 5.2805 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.020374 | 0.019512 | 0.9773 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.030802 | 0.029499 | 1.4775 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000829 | 0.000794 | 0.0398 |

## DISCLOSURES

ELECTED officers of **Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.** were Tomas Alcantara, chair and president; Tirso Santillan Jr., EVP; Editha Alcantara, treasurer; Ramon Diokno, CFO; Roberto San Jose, corporate secretary, and Ireneo Gacad Jr., assistant corporate secretary.

• • •

THE BOARD of **Bank of the Philippine Islands** declared a regular cash dividend of P0.80 per share on the total outstanding common shares of its capital stock to common shareholders of record as of the 15th day of the receipt by BPI of the approval of the **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** of the said dividend.

• • •

**FORTUNE Cement Corp.** elected the following officers: Renato Sunico, chair and assistant corporate information officer; Edgardo Soriano, president and CEO; Romeo Versula, treasurer and corporate information officer, and Rose Marie King, corporate secretary.

• • •

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **East Asia Power Resources Corp.**, which should be held on June 26 in accordance with its by-laws, is moved to the first Wedgesday of August due to lack of quorum.

• • •

**LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc.** bought 211,500 shares at P33.50 per share as part of its share repurchase program. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

# Tokyo tackle

THE FIRST Pacific team led by Indonesian principal Anthoni Salim will meet with officials of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone in Tokyo this afternoon in an attempt to persuade the Japanese, their partners in PLDT, not to block the Gokongwei takeover of Philippine Long Distance Telephone.

The meeting comes in the wake of yesterday's separate NTT meeting with a PLDT contingent led by chair Antonio O. Cojuangco and president/CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan, who are both opposed to First Pacific's divestment to taipan John Gokongwei.

Despite being First Pacific's executive chair, MVP has apparently been, to use an MVP word, "quarantined" from the NTT-First Pacific meeting because of his opposition to the Gokongwei takeover.

**COCKTALES**

*Victor C. Agustin*

In addition to Accra lawyers Francisco Lim and Victor Lazatin, MVP also brought along PLDT director Ray Espinosa, senior partner of Sycip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan until he was drafted full-time with PLDT. (The Sycip Salazar law firm advised First Pacific when it acquired control of PLDT in late 1998.)

MVP seemed to be in a good mood as he was ambush-interviewed at the Naia the other day, despite an article from the Hong Kong-based FinanceAsia magazine going the rounds of Manila, claiming that MVP had asked First Pacific that he be allowed another six months to stay on as PLDT CEO so he could "save face."

PLDT, in the meantime, has toned down its "Digi-Monster" newspaper ads, which aggressively undercut Gokongwei's fledgling landline business in key Luzon provinces.

The ad in yesterday's INQUIRER featured a smaller "D" without the vertical lines that made it suspiciously similar to the Digitel logo.

Still, PLDT said it was confident it could capture 30 percent of the reported 300,000 Digitel subscribers within a month from last week's start of the campaign.

Both the First Pacific and PLDT camps have also resorted to calculated media leaks and interviews since news of the planned takeover broke out late last month, with Hong Kong-based First Pacific executive director Ronald Brown unusually agreeing to an on-camera Q & A session with ABS-CBN News Channel's Ces Oreña-Drilon.

That interview had to be reset for next week after Brown was also asked to attend today's meeting in Tokyo.

On the legislative front, even the Angeles City Council in the heart of Macapagal country has joined the congressional chorus questioning the alleged impending monopoly that would result in Gokongwei's plan to merge Digitel with PLDT.

The council will hold a public hearing today about Digitel's "overpriced" subscriber rate.

The Ayalas, in the meantime, seem to be content to watch the

COCKTALES/ B4

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**ERRATUM**

Correction in the synopsis of ATR Professional Life published in May 31, 2002.

The synopsis was prepared from the 1999 Annual Statement not 1994 as published.

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# AIM hosts Asian forum on corporate social responsibility

THE ASIAN Institute of Management-Ramon del Rosario, Sr. Center for Corporate Responsibility (AIM-RVR Center) will launch the first Asian Forum on corporate social responsibility on July 2 to 4 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila in Makati City. The event is planned to coincide with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation on July 1 to 5 as "Corporate Social Responsibility Week."

The forum with the theme "Asian Business for Society," is programmed to improve social relations and heighten the environmental awareness of the key players in the corporate world. Internationally-renowned speakers will share first-hand knowledge of the environment and socially-friendly management trends and innovations of the times and the best ways to adapt them.

The event's program includes a combination of plenary and concurrent workshop sessions featuring 50 chief executive officers and senior management from several nations as speakers who will share their experience and know-how on the subject.

Considered Asia's foremost conference and expo on corporate social responsibility, the forum will also showcase the latest solutions, products and technologies used by companies to improve quality, reduce costs, and increase productivity while still being socially responsible. It will also feature an E-Networking Center – a virtual community in cyberspace designed to foster networking between delegates before and after the event.

The forum is chaired by Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr., chair of the board of advisors of the AIM-RVR Center and former secretary of finance. The event is organized in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, the Caucus of Development NGO Networks, the Conference of Asian Foundations and Organizations, the Ford Foundation (Philippines), the League of Corporate Foundations, the Makati Business Club, the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the Synergos Institute and the UNDP Global Compact.

**BPI/MS INAUGURATES NEW OFFICES**
The new offices of BPI/MS Insurance Corporation, the result of a merger between the non-life insurance business of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Corporation of Japan was inaugurated by Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay and Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis June 18 at the 18th floor of the Ayala FGU Center. Formal launch of this merger of two entities with solid reputations is scheduled for June 21. Witnessing the inauguration were (from left) Xavier P. Loinaz, chair, BPI/MS; Vida Chiong, deputy insurance commissioner; Ryuichi Ito, president, BPI/MS; Mayor Binay; Mutsuo Watada, director, BPI/MS; Commissioner Malinis; and Alfonso Salcedo, Jr., director, BPI/MS.

# Quintin, new officers head Malabon trade chamber

ZACARIAS F. Quintin, noted realtor-businessman, was recently elected president of the Greater Malabon Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. for Chamber year 2002.

Other officers elected with him were lawyer Victor Paez, board chair, Capt. Celso de Guzman, executive vice president, Giovanni Flores, vice president for internal affairs, Jesus Tanchanco Jr., vice president for external affairs, Reynaldo Sanchez, vice president for international affairs, and Andres Gabriel, vice president for finance.

Also elected were Antonio Gonzales, secretary, Bonifacio Barredo Jr., assistant secretary, Virgilio Reyes, treasurer, Carlos Caco Espana, auditor, Ryan Mercado, public relations officer, and Oscar Maravilla, sergeant-at-arms.

This year's Chamber directors are Chief City Engineer Ulysses Tumbocon, City Councilor Paul Cabrera, Dr. Romeo Umali and realtor Paulino Maglalang.

The organization had been created to foster a better and more conducive trade and industry within the city.

# Broadband Phil. ventures into prepaid net

BROADBAND Philippines, the firm controlled by Jose Perez de Venecia III and US-based Callahan Group, launched recently a new business venture that offers prepaid dial-up Internet connection using scratch-off cards.

Dubbed "Virtual ISP Partnership Program," the project targets Internet service providers and corporate organization and offers complete infrastructure to support sale and distribution of prepaid Internet cards.

"It specifically addresses the need for a more useable, reliable, and less congested prepaid Internet service," said Sonny Valdez, vice president and chief information officer of the company.

Since dial-up networking is the most-used type of computer connection to the Internet, Broadband Philippines will help users tap the growing demand of Internet savvy consumers by offering their businesses an affordable package inclusive of a dial-up network connection, a prepaid Internet platform, and scratch-off cards.

"With this partnership, we are offering ISPs and corporate clients a complete package that will enable them to jumpstart their entry into the prepaid Internet card business without the need for a huge investment in hardware, software and network equipment," said Valdez.

Statistics show that 70 percent of the country's one million Internet users have switched to prepaid Internet cards from postpaid package offered by most ISPs.

The same users continue to be largely dissatisfied with the service that they are currently getting, according to a study.

The estimated market potential for the prepaid Internet cards this year is about P950 million, with an annual growth rate of 1.5 to 2 percent.

To support the venture, De Venecia, Broadband Philippines' chair and chief executive officer, has forged a memorandum of agreement with IBM Solutions. The P11 million-contract mandates IBM to provide a complete solution that includes clustered servers and software integration services.

Broadband Philippines provides a wide range of telecommunication services such as corporate data solutions, Internet service, e-commerce solutions and voice services.

# Legal protection for female employees

**LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM**

*Josephus B. Jimenez*

WOMEN in this country, contrary to common beliefs, enjoy one of the strongest legal protection in the world. Our labor laws provide for special statutory defense mechanism that can be invoked by female employees, when subjected to discrimination, abuse and harassment. The Labor Code of the Philippines dedicates a separate chapter for women workers while the Department of Labor has a separate bureau that upholds the rights of working women and minors. Men do not get the same special attention.

In a way, it can be argued, albeit quite dangerously, that in this country, there is a reverse discrimination. It is the men who are discriminated upon. They are always perceived by a highly prejudiced society as the perpetrators, never the victims, of sexual harassment in the workplace. In the movie Disclosure, it has been illustrated in vivid cinematic colors that men can be victims of scheming, vengeful and sexually motivated women executives.

### Constitution and laws

The Philippine Constitution explicitly recognizes the role of women in nation-building and ensures fundamental equality between men and women in the society. The country is a signatory to the UN Cedaw (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women). Adopted in 1979 by the General Assembly, RA 6727 (June 9, 1989) explicitly prohibits discrimination against women with respect to terms and conditions of employment.

RA 6955 (June 13, 1990) bans the practice of mail-order-bride for a fee and prohibits the export of female labor to countries than cannot guarantee protection to the rights of women workers. RA 7192 (Feb. 12, 1992), the "Women In Development and Nation-Building Act," which afford women equal opportunities to enter into contracts and for admission to the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police. Today, we see female cadets graduating with honors from the PMA.

### More laws for women

RA 7322 (March 30, 1992) increased the maternity benefits granted to women in the private sector. RA 7877 (Feb. 14, 1995) outlawed and penalized sexual harassment both in the workplace and in the education and training environment. RA 8042 (June 7, 1995), the Migrant Workers and OFW Act, stresses that the deployment of migrant workers can only be done to countries that secure their rights.

The Family Code (Aug. 3, 1988), amending the first of the five books of the Civil Code, increased very considerably the rights of women in the field of civil law. President Estrada, before leaving office, hurriedly signed into law RA 8972 (Nov. 7, 2000), granting substantial rights to single parents, with much emphasis on single mothers. He signed this at the height of the impeachment trial, apparently dedicated to all the girls he loved before.

### Labor Code for women

Articles 130 to 138 of the Labor Code are provisions all especially dedicated to women. Article 130 prohibits some kind of night work for women. Article 132 specifies that employers must provide women workers special facilities befitting their gender. Even GROs, hostesses, waitresses and other entertainers in nightclubs, bars, lounges, massage clinics and other establishments shall be considered employees and not just independent contractors. As such, they are entitled to all the rights provided by the Labor Code.

Article 135 upholds women's rights against discrimination. Article 136 prohibits discrimination by reason of the marriage of a female employee. In the case of PTT vs. NLRC (GR 118978, May 23, 1997), the Supreme Court nullified the company policy that discriminated against married women.

### Stipulations vs marriage: Taboo

Article 136 of the Labor Code provides: "It shall be unlawful for an employer to require as a condition of employment or continuation of employment that a woman should not get married, or to stipulate expressly or tacitly that upon getting married, a woman employee shall be deemed resigned or separated or to actually dismiss a women employee merely by reason of marriage."

The leading case of that famous PAL flight stewardess, Claudine Zialcita, (RO4-3-3398, Feb. 20, 1977) has become the controlling doctrine. PAL's policy of separating stewardesses, upon getting married, was declared void. The Court of Appeals branded such policy as "discriminatory chauvinism" in the case of Gualberto vs. Marinduque Mining (CA-GR 52753-R, June 28, 1978).

### Sexual harassment

RA 7877, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 penalizes the act and the Labor Code considers it a just cause for dismissal. The Supreme Court has repeatedly condemned sexual harassment in the work place. In the case of D.C.V. vs. NLRC (GR 106341, Sept. 2, 1994), an executive of a doughnut factory was dismissed for harassing a casual employee.

An engineer in National Steel Corp. was held guilty of sexual harassment for touching the hands and shoulder and caressing the nape of a secretary (CL vs. NLRC, May 28, 1999).

### Matriarchal society

In a society that is virtually controlled by women, discrimination against female workers can hardly escape the scrutiny and sanction of the law. We have a woman President, many women Cabinet members including the labor secretary, we have three women senators, three women justices of the Supreme Court, almost one-half the number of justices in the Court of Appeals (including the presiding justice) and half the number of RTC and MTC judges all over the nation are women. In Congress and in the bureaucracy, the women practically are the leading voices.

We are becoming a nation where women are calling the shots, directing policies, implementing regulations and interpreting laws. The laws and the institutions are strongly favoring women. The symbol of justice is a woman, the Statue of Liberty is a lady. There is much stress on gender sensitivity and much ado on male chauvinism. Women have indeed arrived.

Men are the endangered species. I'm not complaining. I just want to make the record straight.

# Australia threatens to retain ban on RP banana exports

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

AUSTRALIA is poised to maintain its ban on Philippine banana exports citing safety concerns about exotic frogs found in banana boxes and the industry's use of harmful pesticides such as hydrogen cyanide and methyl bromide.

Based on documents furnished by government officials, Biosecurity Australia was worried that Philippine banana exports could easily carry exotic box frogs that survive even after spraying, shrink-wrapping, fumigation and refrigeration.

Biosecurity, Australia's watchdog on food safety, claimed that the banana box frogs pose great risk to native fauna, particularly the Australian platypus. It cited research by the University of Tasmania that showed that pathogens carried by the Queensland banana box frogs have caused the death of thousands of Tasmanian platypus.

Biosecurity claimed that this showed the unforeseen impact that exotic banana frogs could have on Australia's wildlife. Biosecurity noted that Philippine bananas shipped to New Zealand has been found to be carrying ants, flies, scale insects, a stick bug and weeds.

Aside from hitchhiking, disease-carrying box frogs, Biosecurity also raised concerns about the use by Filipinos of hydrogen cyanide and methyl bromide in controlling pests of their banana exports.

Australian banana growers claimed that there was no "responsible way" that Biosecurity could approve Philippine banana exports with these pesticides. They claimed that their native bananas were clean and safe and that any action that exposes the threat of exotic pests and disease risks is unacceptable.

These concerns are part of Biosecurity's import risk analysis (IRA) on Philippine bananas scheduled for release on June 30. The Philippines will have 60 days to respond to Biosecurity's concerns before the Australian government decided whether to lift or maintain the ban on Philippine bananas.

The Philippines has threatened to file a case of unfair trade practices against Australia with the World Trade Organization. The Philippines maintained that Australia's phytosanitary standards were made to be stringent to keep out Philippine fruits out of the Australian market.

# *French firms keen on doing business in Cotabato*

DAVAO CITY—French Ambassador to the Philippines Renée Veyret on Monday said businessmen from her country wanted to spur economic development in war-torn Cotabato province and in the city through joint venture arrangements with their Filipino counterparts.

French businessmen realized that only economic activities could give employment to and improve the lives of the people in areas perceived to be mired with conflict, Veyret said.

"With employment, there's less and less terrorism and insecurity," she said.

In a meeting with Cotabato officials at the Marco Polo Hotel here, Veyret said there were a lot of opportunities for investment in the said province, especially in the agriculture and telecommunications sectors.

She said that at least eight French businessmen have already gone to Cotabato province to explore business opportunities there.

Hubert d'Aboville, adviser to the French Embassy and president of the Paris-Manila Technology Corp., said that the arrival of French traders for business matching with the local businessmen would be a test case for both countries.

He said there would likely be an influx of French businessmen in Mindanao if the first batch would succeed in establishing ties with their local traders.

"Before you start a fire you need a match and what we have here is a match that will strike the fire," d'Aboville said.

He said that aside from agriculture and telecommunications, French businessmen are also interested to invest in rubber, cement and the electrical industries.

D'Aboville said French businessmen were also interested in tapping their countrymen who have been living in Mindanao for years now. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# Cocktales

From page B3

corporate *telenovela* from the sidelines, although Globe Telecom spokesperson Jones Campos was seen attending the PLDT stockholders' meeting last week.

### Out-of-sight from oversight

IN THIS afternoon's town-hall meeting at the faction-ridden Manila Polo Club, ex-Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo and ex-Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia will again raise the banner of "good governance and moral recovery" in their desire to win political points in the club's coming election.

If both gentlemen take the time to check the background of the "oversight" committee that is noisily demanding changes, they would find out that one of the leading members of the committee makes a living lending "5-6" to the club employees.

The others include a mango supplier whose contract had been rescinded by the board, a computer parts supplier, two failed suppliers of their respective computer software programs, one fired for cause by the board, one a respondent of five libel cases from club-related hostilities, and one head of a management company interested in getting the club's business.

In short, Romulo and Cuisia's leading lieutenants have their own private agendas skillfully subsumed under the "good governance and moral recovery" flag, according to the Polo Club grapevine.

The current Polo Club board has also expressed its willingness to open the books to any outside audit, as requested by ex-SGV chair Rizalino Navarro, provided that the cost of the examination will be borne by the proponent, and not by the club.

Incidentally, SGV was the club's long-standing auditors until three years ago when the club members voted to let go of their services precisely because of auditing/costs issues.

### Solicited honors

WE'VE heard a number of sob stories as a result of certain parties being crossed out from the Mikey Arroyo-Angela Montenegro wedding this Monday.

But the admission from no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo about the jockeying for invites nearly floored us.

The President, in a wide-ranging talk with Malacañang reporters on Wednesday, admitted that there were parties who actually went out of their way just to be sure they get to be invited to the biggest social event of the year.

"There are some who asked . . . to be invited," the President said, matter-of-factly, after being questioned by a reporter if she knew who would be attending her son's wedding.

And then the President rattled off names. She actually named two, who both happened to be, ouch, newspaper columnists.

Since *Cocktales* believes in the honor-among-thieves rule, we shall refrain from identifying our colleague, the presidential disclosure notwithstanding. But to the curious, the mischievous Ninez Cacho-Olivares came up with the names in her newspaper yesterday.

### Heard through the grapevine

AN OLD rich family has threatened to blow the whistle on its listed real estate developer-partner after the family's lawyers discovered that the developer had already facilitated the issuance of about 200 condominium certificates of title even though the original land title of the Mandaluyong condo is still in escrow and has not yet been turned over to the Land Registration Authority.

Apparently, the root of the dispute is that the family, which contributed the land to the joint venture, is unhappy with the developer over the quality of the condo units received by them. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

A JAPANESE businessman studies Tokyo stock prices in front of a brokerage in Ginza commercial district in Tokyo. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average lost 363.75 points, or 3.36 percent, to close at 10,476.18, suffering their biggest daily point fall this year amid worries over US computer memory chipmakers. AP

# G8 leaders urged to reduce poverty

UNITED NATIONS—UN secretary general Kofi Annan urged leaders of the world's major industrialized nations to make "firm pledges" of action and money at their summit next week to fight the poverty that billions of people face every day, especially in Africa.

In an open letter to the leaders of the eight richest and most powerful nations, he said people in the developing world "have suffered disproportionately from the slowdown in the world economy, and they are also the primary victims of terror and violence."

"Even the richest and most powerful countries . . . are unlikely to achieve lasting security, either in the economic or the physical sense," as long as billions remain poverty-stricken, Annan warned.

The secretary general welcomed the decision of the Group of Eight summit to focus on Africa, the world's poorest continent, at the June 26-27 summit in Kananaskis, Canada. He thanked the summit leaders for inviting him and five African leaders to attend a day-long working session on June 27.

"Although the secretary general will be speaking . . ., this letter is his major input into the summit," UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard said Wednesday.

While progress in combating poverty depends "first and foremost" on the developing countries themselves and especially their leaders, Annan said, "the best efforts of these conference in Monterrey, Mexico, and work toward the additional $50 billion a year in foreign aid which is the minimum needed to meet the goals set by the world's leaders at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.

By 2015, the leaders pledged to halve extreme poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and start to reverse the HIV/AIDS epidemic. *AP*

# Mahathir says rich nations run globalization for own benefit

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad accused rich countries Thursday of using globalization for their own benefit and said little had changed in the world financial system since the Asian economic crisis five years ago.

Mahathir, one of the world's most prominent critics of globalization, told the annual party congress of his United Malays National Organization that the international financial system threatens small countries.

"Other than capital, there is no freedom to cross borders," Mahathir said. "Poor people may not migrate to rich nations."

Giant mergers creating huge global banks and companies would overwhelm smaller countries and turn their citizens into "paid employees of foreign giants," he said.

Malaysia was posting some the world's fastest annual growth rates when crisis struck Asia's currencies in mid-1997, leading to a massive withdrawal of foreign investment.

Mahathir refused to take Malaysia under a recovery program run by the International Monetary Fund, as some of his neighbors did, and flouted IMF orthodoxy by fixing the exchange rate and imposing capital controls.

Malaysia defied predictions of disaster and recovered more quickly than most countries, though the boom never fully returned.

Critics have said that the economic crisis was caused by cronyism and lack of transparency, but Mahathir said that the culprits were feckless currency and stock speculators.

"Although it is clear that this caused the economic disaster, the relevant authorities still refuse to change the international financial regime," Mahathir said. "They wish to perpetuate this regime in order to rake in profits for themselves."

Mahathir, 76, has led this Southeast Asian country for 21 years and transformed it from a commodity-dependent backwater to one of the richest countries in the region, with a thriving electronics export sector. *AP*

# US SEC to tighten accounting rules

WASHINGTON—The government is putting forward its own Enron-inspired plan to tighten oversight of the accounting industry by creating an independent monitoring body with disciplinary powers.

But the Bush administration proposal being introduced by the Securities and Exchange Commission doesn't go as far as a bill that advanced Tuesday in the Senate, which also would restrict accounting firms from doing some lucrative consulting services for companies they audit.

Legislation passed by the Republican-led House in April, meanwhile, lies somewhere between the two and has been criticized by consumer groups as being too weak to bolster investor confidence.

Longtime Enron Corp. auditor Arthur Andersen LLP, convicted Saturday on a federal charge of obstructing justice, told the SEC that by Aug. 31 it will cease auditing publicly traded companies—the heart of its business—as required by an SEC rule for any firm convicted of a felony.

All three proposals would create a new board to oversee the accounting industry and discipline auditors, replacing the current system in which the industry largely polices itself.

The SEC will open its proposal to public comment for 60 days, with the three SEC commissioners voting at an open meeting on Thursday.

SEC Chair Harvey Pitt has said that a new system of accounting oversight must be in place by year's end—through new SEC rules if Congress hasn't enacted legislation by then.

The agency is proposing a new oversight board with at least six of its nine members to come from outside the accounting industry. The board, which in turn would be overseen by the SEC, would not have subpoena power as the SEC does but could fine auditors or accounting firms or suspend or bar them from practicing.

The board would be funded with mandatory fees from accounting firms and corporations.

The Senate bill, approved Tuesday by the Senate Banking Committee on a 17-4 vote, would give a new Public Company Accounting Oversight Board authority to establish auditing and ethics rules. Two members would have to be accountants; the other three must not have worked in the accounting industry.

All five members would be appointed by the SEC—which would oversee the new board—in consultation with the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve.

Compared with the House-passed version, the Senate bill restricts a much wider range of consulting and other non-auditing services that accounting firms can provide to their audit clients, including bookkeeping, financial systems design and human resources and legal services. Accountants would be allowed to provide tax services if the company's audit committee gave its approval.

Critics of current practices say some accountants have become too cozy with the companies they audit, threatening the integrity of financial reports and undermining investor confidence.

The Senate bill also would require the SEC to impose new rules on financial analysts to prevent conflicts of interest. The rules go further than those recently adopted by the market watchdog agency.

It was endorsed by consumer groups, labor unions, former Federal Reserve Chair Paul Volcker, who was hired by Andersen in February to make internal reforms, and other influential figures. *AP*

## JOINT STATEMENT

Without going over the merits of their controversy involved in the case of "Samson G. Cu vs. Vivian Zapanta, Art Lopez, Raffy Baes and The Westin Philippine Plaza", docketed as Civil Case No. Q00-40442, pending before the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 216, the parties thereby express their sincere regrets over the incident/s involved therein which could have been avoided had the parties been more patient. The parties have now settled whatever misunderstanding they may have.

The management of Philippine Plaza Hotel further expresses its recognition to the past invaluable business patronage of Samson Cu who is a reputable and respected businessman; and that the family of Samson Cu is furthermore well-respected and highly esteemed in the Chinese Community.

_____ April 2002.

**PHILIPPINE PLAZA HOLDINGS, INC.**
By:

(Sgd.) **SHANE CUNNING**
General Manager

(Sgd.) **SAMSON G. CU**

Assisted by:

**PONCE ENRILE REYES & MANALASTAS LAW OFFICES**
By:

(Sgd.) **EDGAR DENNIS A. PADERNAL**

Assisted by:

(Sgd.) **ABRAHAM ESPEJO**

# Pangilinan . . .

From page B1

the benefical owner and the others are just legal owners," the source said.

As the Gokongwei deal with First Pacific Co. Ltd. was structured in such a way that the PLDT stake was overvalued while the BLC stake was undervalued, the sources said the Pangilinan camp deemed it best to invoke legal issues instead.

The Gokongweis, through partiarch John Gokongwei Jr., signed a binding memorandum of agreement with First Pacific to create a joint-venture company that would control a 24.47-percent stake in PLDT and 50.4 percent of BLC.

The 24.47-percent stake in PLDT represents the single biggest block with voting rights of about 31 percent.

To match the package, Pangilinan's camp would have to win the financial backing of NTT, the second biggest stockholder in PLDT with a right of first refusal on the deal. But even if NTT decides to exercise the option, it would have to match even the property component of the deal.

To date, Pangilinan has never officially admitted that he was putting up a management offer even when ordered to do so by First Pacific. He has confirmed, however, that US investment bank JP Morgan was hired by PLDT to scrutinize the deal.

Meanwhile, other sources said that aside from meeting with NTT, Pangilinan's Tokyo trip was also meant to iron out some loan disbursement with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

PLDT also wrote to First Pacific and the Gokongwei group requesting them to disclose more details of the deal.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2002

# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

## Siemens IT, telecoms journalism awards 2002 launched

SIEMENS INC., the local subsidiary of the German electronics and electrical engineering conglomerate Siemens AG, announced recently that it would recognize the best IT and Telecommunications stories of the year through its IT and Telecommunications Journalism Awards 2002.

Under the awards program, IT and telecommunications stories published by Manila-based newspapers, magazines and trade publications from Sept. 2001 to Aug. 2002 will be eligible for the award. The company has partnered with the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) to collate and screen the stories. CMFR will also supervise the panel of judges who will choose the best stories for the year.

Siemens senior vice president for information and communications Guenther Binder explained that the awards were conceptualized as a means for Siemens to recognize quality reports that help to educate the public on IT and telecommunications issues.

For a developing country such as the Philippines, we think journalists who perform this task of education--through their writing--are an asset to society.

We also want to recognize those publications whose IT and telecommunications sections consistently give the public relevant and timely information.

Binder added that the company has initially chosen the areas of IT and telecommunications for the journalism awards because, aside from being one of the most important businesses of Siemens in the country, these two fields are believed to be "key growth areas for the Philippines.

The Siemens IT and Telecommunications Journalism Awards 2002 is the first of its kind in the Siemens organization worldwide.

CMFR is conducting a scan of broadsheets and magazines for articles that would be further screened for nomination. However, journalists may also submit published stories that they would like to be considered for the award. A cash prize will be given the authors of the winning stories in the following categories: Best IT Article of the Year (nwspaper daily/magazine and trade publication), Best Telecommunications Article (newespaper daily/magazine and trade publication), Best Edited IT Section of the Year (Newspaper daily/magazine), Best Edited Telecommunications Section (Newspaper daily/magazine).

Entries should be sent to CMFR no later than Sept. 2. Winners will be announced by November. Interested parties can call CMFR at 894-1314 or 894-1326. Entry forms may also be downloaded through Siemens Inc.'s website at www.siemens.com.ph.

**TOYOTA FORKLIFT DISTRIBUTORSHIP RENEWAL**

Shown above are officials of Philippine Forklift Center Inc. and Toyota Industries Corporation for the signing of the renewal of the exclusive distributorship of Toyota industrial equipment in the Philippines. Front row (seated, from left) A. Yokoi, Chairman TICO, Ma. Rita A. Calanoc, president and chair of the board, PFCI and T. Ishikawa, president, TICO. Standing (from left) Lawyer K. Ito, general manager, legal department, TICO K. Sagawa, general manager, area sales operations, overseas sales and marketing department of Toyota Material Handling Company, K. Noguchi, president of Toyota Material Handling company and executive vice president, TICO, Julius P. Nazareno, executive vice president, PFCI, Dr. Antonio Ma. Calanoc, husband of Ma. Rita and S. Shimo general manager, overseas sales and marketing department of TMHC.

**TRANE PHILIPPINES HOSTS FAMILY DAY**

Trane Philippines, the local subsidiary of one of the largest manufacturers of heating, ventilating air-conditioning and building systems and management based in the US, recently celebrated a grand Family Day vacation for its loyal dealers nationwide. Held at Island Cove Resort, Cavite, the annual occasion allowed them to bring along family members, friends and office colleagues to promote business and social camaraderie. The Family Day affair also gave recognition to the outstanding Trane sales achievers as well as those dealers who have participated and won in the Trane Family Bucks Challenge, a program that gives exciting prizes for accumulated points earned per sales made throughout the year.

## Vesak Day stamps available until Aug. 26

THE PHILIPPINE Postal Corp. (PhilPost) has issued a stamp to publicize the first official Vesak Day celebration in the Philippines.

Postmaster general Nicasio P. Rodriguez Jr., through Philpost chief of staff Rizalino E. Quiaoit Jr., said the design of the stamp depicts the image of Gautama Buddha with the World Peace Tower Stupa on the background signifying the Buddha's universal message of peace, non-violence, compassion and wisdom.

Also incorporated in the design is the logo of the Universal Wisdom Foundation, which signifies the worldwide relevance of Buddhism spanning all races and cultures, the word "Pilipinas", the denomination of the stamp, and the text "Vesak Day".

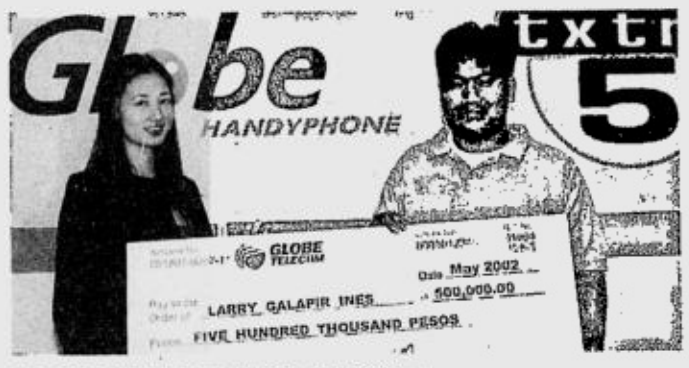
Siddharta Gautama, more widely known as the Buddha, lived and preached from 563 BC to 480 BC in Northern India, making Buddhism one of the oldest religions and philosophies of mankind.

The teachings of Buddha are considered universal. Buddhism propagates moderation in one's life, non-violence, peaceful coexistence, and consistent practice of compassion, goodwill and loving kindness.

The United Nations, in 1999, with the support of 80 member nations including the Philippines, signed Resolution A./54/115 titled "An International Recognition Day of the Vesak". President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation 24 on March 29, 2001 declaring the full moon day of May as Vesak Day in the Philippines.

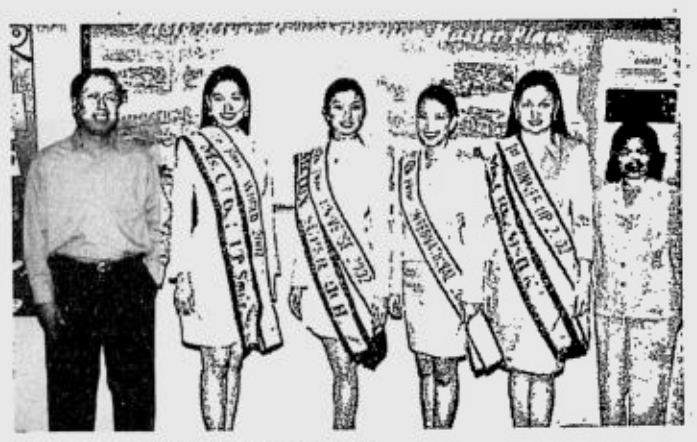
In large-sized vertical format, the new stamp has a denomination of P5 with an edition of 70,000 pieces and designed by Josefa Consunji-Reyes, Fred Cabuang, Isaiah Ginson, Raj Mansukhani, Cathrine Tan and Josephine Gortega.

The stamps are on sale up to Aug. 26 and are available now at the Philatelic Division, Door 203, Post Office Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.




**GLOBE SUPPORTS PR SUMMIT**

Globe Telecom recently signed as a major sponsor of the 2nd Philippine Public Relations Summit held May 23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Organized by Context Communications International Inc., headed by Romeo Virtusio, the PR Summit gathered private and government sector managers, PR, advertising and marketing practitioners, information officers, academicians and students to discuss 'PR's One True Challenge: What We Can Do For Our Country.' Shown are Context chair Romeo P. Virtusio and Globe Telecom SVP lawyer Rodolfo Salalima (seated, 2nd and 3rd from left). With them are Globe community relations officer Melissa T. Fontanilla (standing, left), Globe AVP for public relations Jones T. Campos (left), and Virtusio Public Relations president Lulu Virtusio.



**BEAUTIES VISIT UNILEVER**

The reigning Bb. Pilipinas Beauties 2002 recently visited the Heritage Center as part of their courtesy call in Unilever Philippines. Unilever has been sponsoring the Search for Bb. Pilipinas for several years now. The major brand sponsors are Close-Up, Lux Super Rich, and Creamsilk. The Search is organized by the Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. and headed by Stella Marquez de Araneta. Shown are Unilever's Chito Macapagal and Beng Caguitla with the winners (from left) Katherine Ann Manalo (Bb. Pilipinas-World, Ms Close-Up), Karen Loren Agustin (Bb. Pilipinas-Universe, Ms Lux Super Rich), Kristine Alzar (Bb. Pilipinas-International), and Margaret Ann Bayot (Bb. Pilipinas-1st Runner Up, Ms Creamsilk).

**BPI COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ORIENTATION**

BPI Foundation recently held the BPI College Scholarship Orientation at the 1851 Club of the bank's head office. The BPI College Scholarship program is open to dependents of BPI employees who will qualify from a series of tests conducted. Every year, 10 candidates are granted the scholarship and are encouraged to take up courses related to science and engineering as part of the Foundation's thrust. The participants were (standing, from left) Genesis V. Aquino, Patrick Marayag, executive director of BPI Foundation, Veronica Tapia Merk, manager of BPI corporate communications, Chell Jacob, Rogelio Cortes, Christian Roger Cortes, Margiorico Salaveria, Jan Latimer Bautista, Francis Nikolai Erana, Javier Bautista and wife, Gabriel Dino De Jesus, and Rodolfo De Jesus. Seated, from left, are Maria Salaveria, Pacita Marayag, Reynalda Abadejos, Melissa Abadejos, Kristen Mae Fabular, Nimfa Fabular, Eppie Erana, and Grace De Jesus.

**FRIENDS OF THE GIRL SCOUTS**

Launched recently is the Friends of the GSP Tagaytay Training Center, a movement of civic-minded citizens with a promise to enhance the Center's programs and facilities. Seated at the center and in Girl Scouts uniform are national president Cynthia Zagala, Friends chair Josefina O. Reyes, national executive director Gloria Echaluce, board member Ann Tamesis and guider-in-charge Tessie Ferreira together with the founding members of Friends from the government, business, professional and civic organizations.

### BITS etc Clips

### Kimbies 10th year blowout

KIMBIES Disposable Diapers celebrates its 10th year with a price rollback sure to beat all other price rollbacks. Until July, prices of Kimbies Disposable Diapers will be rolled back to its price in 1992, the time when Kimbies first hit the shelves of grioceries and supermarkets nationwide. Mothers can avail themselves of as much as P30 off the regular price of Kimbies Belt-Style economy packs and as much as P20 off on Kimbies Plus economy packs. This treat is one way for Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI) to thank all the Filipino mothers for making Kimbies one of the leading disposable diaper brands in the country.

### 1st RP candle design competition

BEFORE, candles were used mainly for lighting purposes, but because of the artistic ingenuity of Filipinos, candles have evolved into decors and accent pieces of different designs, wit applications of scents and essential oils. In support of the creativity of our candle makers, PhilTrade Exhibits, in cooperation with the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, is hosting the First Philippine Candle Design Competition on June 29 and 30 at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Mackinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. This event is the highlight of the "Mother Earth Fair" focusing on the preservation and protection of our natural resources. The competition is supported by the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines, DTI, and the Environmental Advocacy Group. Details are available at PhilTrade Exhibits. Call Debbie Rose at 820-7879 or 820-1570.

### ProductFILES

### Antonov Airlines appoints Air Cargo Partners

ANTONOV Airlines has recently appointed Air Cargo Partners Corp. (ACPC) as its exclusive general sales agent in the Philippines. Antonov Airlines' fleet consists of the world's largest freighter aircraft, including eight An124-100s, which can each carry up to 120 tons, and the An225, which can carry up to 250 tons. Shown is an An124-100, taken during the Antonov-ACPC partnership inaugural flight May 2 at the Subic International Airport. This An124 transported more than 90 tons of electronics to Germany, and was the first of a series of three flights performed in early May.

Antonov Airlines is the marketing name for the cargo airline business of Antonov Design Bureau (Ukraine) and Air Foyle HeavyLift Ltd. (UK).

# Volatile markets threaten recovery, IMF chief says

THE HAGUE—The chief of the International Monetary Fund said on Wednesday the global economic recovery still faced uncertainties because of fragile financial markets and the volatility in US stocks.

The global recovery was partly due to a rebound in the US, but the uncertainties about its strength and durability remained, IMF head Horst Koehler said.

"This is related to the fragility in financial markets, the volatility in stock prices and its influence on spending in the US," Koehler told reporters during a country visit to the Netherlands.

Despite the risks, Koehler agreed with forecasts that a slow global recovery was under way.

"The economic recovery will get stronger in the second half, this includes Europe and the Netherlands," he told reporters.

Koehler said global political instability remained, especially in Afghanistan and Pakistan and because of the threat of further terrorist attacks.

He added that a deal for a new aid package for Argentina was possible "within a month, but it depends on what happens within Argentina itself."

Earlier this week Argentine President Eduardo Duhalde said he expected to reach an accord with the IMF about restoring billions of dollars in aid within a month.

Latin America's No. 3 economy desperately needs fresh help from the IMF, in part to avoid defaulting on loans from the Washington-based lender and other multilateral organizations, which would cut off the country's access to its last remaining sources of credit. ***Reuters***

## *Japan trade surplus soars*

TOKYO—A surge in exports of cars, computer chips, flat screen TVs and other hi-tech products, mainly to Asia, underpinned a 715-percent rise in Japan's trade surplus in May from a year ago—nearly double market forecasts.

The Ministry of Finance, which released the data on Thursday, said Japan's customs-cleared trade surplus expanded for a third straight month to 619.2 billion yen ($5 billion).

That compared with the 344.5 billion yen surplus expected by most economists and followed a 26.6-percent rise in April. On a month-on-month basis, the surplus was up 17.1 percent.

Exports rose for a fifth straight month, climbing 5.7 percent from April, while imports grew for a second month, rising 3.2 percent and suggesting an export-led recovery was giving consumers at home the confidence they need to start spending.

"Exports to Asia are leading the way but it's not just Asia, there's a broad improvement," said Ryo Hino, economist at J.P. Morgan in Tokyo. "It's very positive news for the Japanese economy, which is basically relying on foreign economic growth."

Exports to the United States, Japan's biggest trading partner, jumped for the first time in 14 months on a year-on-year basis, climbing 5.5 percent. Japanese exports to Western Europe, however, fell 2.4 percent.

Exports to Asia were up 15 percent from a year earlier, led by a 26.2-percent jump to China and a 22.8-percent rise to South Korea as both countries snapped up high-end computer parts such as semiconductors and ultrå-thin liquid crystal displays.

"Exports to Asia, particularly China, are robust, suggesting that an economic recovery in the region is pushing up exports," said Takeshi Minami, senior economist at UFJ Tsubasa Securities.

"Imports are likely to stay subdued given the weak consumption and capital investment here," he added. ***Reuters***

## Andersen has two shots at reversing guilty verdict

NEW YORK—Collapsed accounting giant Andersen has only two arrows left in its quiver, and whether they hit the bull's-eye may not matter.

The Chicago-based firm is nonetheless drawing back its tattered legal bow and aiming to reverse a felony conviction delivered against it by a jury on Saturday.

Andersen's lawyers are considering plans to ask a federal judge to throw out the conviction, a spokesperson for the firm said on Wednesday.

"We are definitely going to appeal, but we are weighing this option as well," said the spokesperson, Patrick Dorton.

If Andersen's legal team decides to file a motion seeking to have a judge nullify the conviction, it would be based partly on public descriptions by jurors of how they arrived at the verdict, Dorton said.

The verdict nullification is the first step Andersen can take to overturn the decision, since it cannot appeal the case to the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals until after sentencing on Oct. 11.

The foreman of the 12-member jury, Oscar Criner, said after the decision that Andersen's shredding of tons of documents related to its audit of failed energy trader Enron Corp. was "superficial" evidence and had nothing to do with the verdict.

The jury found that Andersen lawyer Nancy Temple criminally intended to impede federal investigators when she suggested changes in a memo recounting a conference call concerning Enron's classification of earnings. ***Reuters***

## Microsoft rejects compromise in antitrust case

WASHINGTON—Microsoft refused on Wednesday to offer further concessions to end its antitrust case, rebuffing a federal judge's invitation to revisit the demands of nine states seeking stiffer sanctions against the software giant.

The state's proposed sanctions were "fundamentally flawed," Microsoft attorney John Warden told US District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly during closing arguments.

"We can't remedy this by changing a few words here and there," Warden said. "We can't fix it."

The nine states, in contrast, heeded the judge's instructions and identified their most important demand—a requirement for Microsoft to share computer code that allows rival software to work well with Microsoft's dominant Windows operating system.

The states accused the company of "thuggish" business practices in their closing presentation, and portrayed the judge as the last chance to stop Microsoft's bullying.

"I suggest to you that Microsoft still doesn't get it and you're the only one left to tell them what it's all about," states' attorney Brendan Sullivan told Kollar-Kotelly.

The nine states have refused to sign a settlement of the case reached in November between Microsoft and the US Justice Department and endorsed by nine other states previously party to the four-year-old case.

Kollar-Kotelly issued an order on Tuesday telling both sides to come to court prepared to answer questions on how their proposals could be modified if she rejects their respective remedies as currently written—suggesting she is open to some hybrid of the two positions in a modified settlement agreement.

The judge's request "suggests that she's trying to understand what's most important to the parties and what causes the least amount of pain," said Mark Schechter, an antitrust attorney with the firm Howrey Simon Arnold & White.

"I think it's reasonably likely that the court will order some additional conduct restrictions" that go beyond the Justice Department settlement, Schechter said.

Outside the courthouse afterward, the hold-out attorneys general said they were not surprised by Microsoft's decision to reject any further compromise. ***Reuters***

## US probes global memory chip firms

NEW YORK/LONDON—US antitrust officials are investigating the $12 billion global memory chip industry, which has been bleeding losses amid cut-throat price competition, the Department of Justice said on Wednesday.

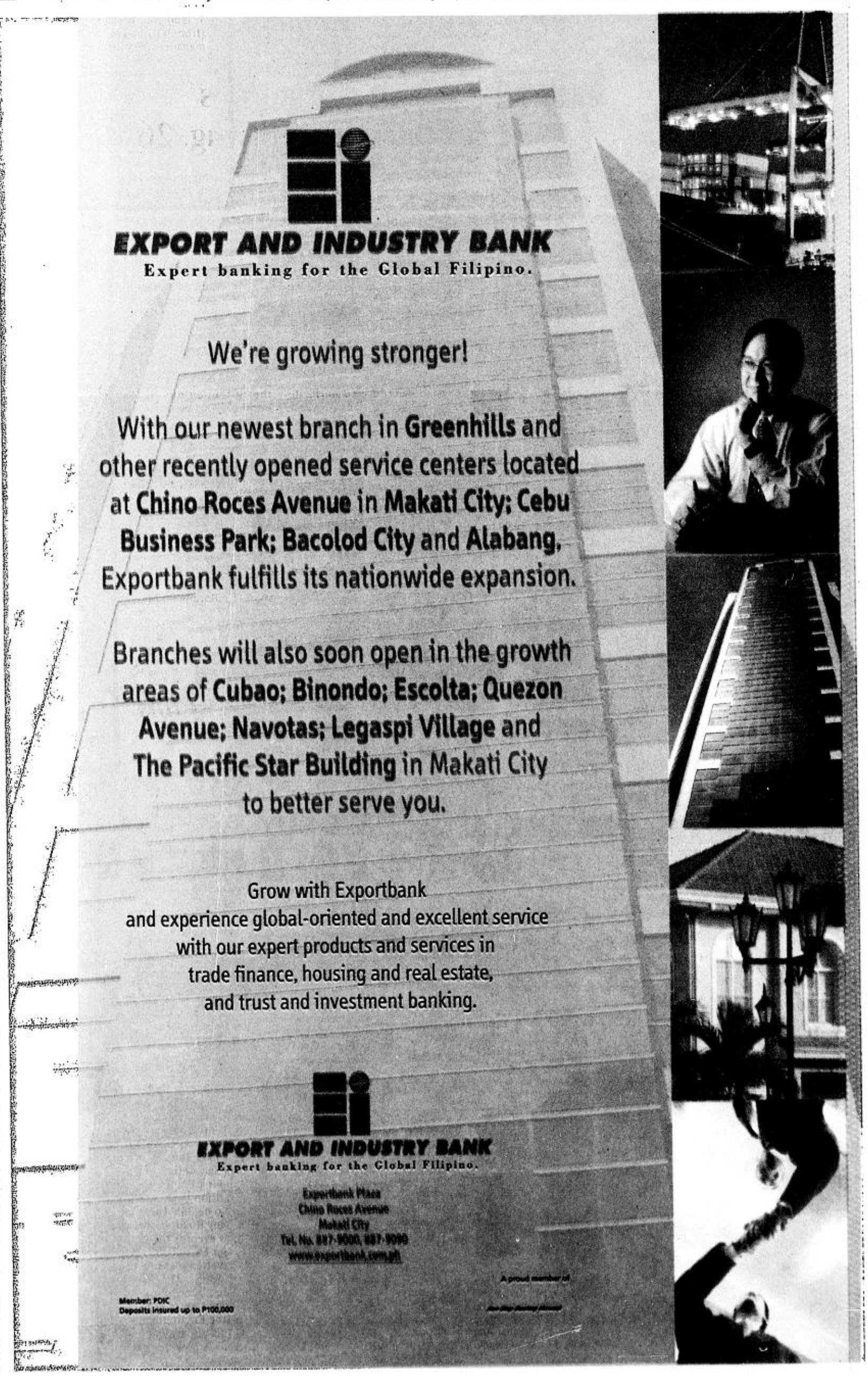
The world's top four makers of dynamic random access memory, or DRAM, confirmed that they were caught up in the US probe, which appeared to focus on the sharp price swings that have battered the industry since last fall.

Those targeted include South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. and Hynix Semiconductor Inc., Micron Technology Inc. of the United States, and Germany's Infineon Technologies AG. Together they accounted for 70 percent of the DRAM market last year.

Micron, the world's second largest maker of computer memory chips, said it received a demand for information from a grand jury in the US District Court for the Northern District of California.

Micron said it would cooperate with the probe, but denied it had violated any laws. A grand jury considers whether enough evidence exists to bring criminal charges.

"The DRAM business is highly competitive and subject to extreme volatility," Micron vice president of Corporate Affairs Kipp Bedard said in a statement. "Competitive forces in today's market have led to DRAM prices reaching unprecedented lows." ***Reuters***

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Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

MONTALBAN 360T 6495616

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TREELANE -IMUS 2 STY ; 3BR, 2T&B T# (046)434-0997

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**MAKATI**

Zapote nr J.P.Rizal 246m² P35T 5646593 5633742 09178473744

**MANDALUYONG**

335m² P12M 5780283

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LA863 CORNER LOT Corinthian • T634-1212

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Rush Landsdale 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

**SAN JUAN**

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## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
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**ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No. 421-2327; 911-6001 loc. 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

**(Second Publication)**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **UPGRADE OF TWO (2) LANDING SHIP TANKS (LSTs)** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Two Hundred Forty One Million Five Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Pesos (Php 241,584,000.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities with category "large shipyard" or "medium shipyard" by the MARINA shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **June 28, 2002 (Friday)** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 05, 2002 (Friday)** at **2:00 p.m.** (local time) at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City*. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Prospective bidders are allowed to inspect the two (2) LSTs upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **July 19, 2002 (Friday)** at **2:00 p.m.** (local time) and immediately followed by the Opening of Bids at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L ABAYA**
*Lieutenant General AFP*
*Chairman, BAC*

(PDI - June 21 & 28, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
**MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

## INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites eligible Filipino consulting firms duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of drawing a long list from which a selection shall be made for the provision of consulting services for the ***Proposed Transfer and Relocation of the General Aviation Operations from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.***

The selected Consultant who shall be screened and evaluated by the MIAA Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (MIAA-PEAC) in accordance with procedures of the NEDA Guidelines on the Procurement of Consulting Services for Government Projects (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 164), shall be responsible in advising the MIAA with the best possible relocation site for the existing General Aviation Area. To enable this, the Consultant shall be required to prepare the assessment, pre-investment or feasibility studies on candidate sites or other alternative sites. It is a must that the Consultant has sufficient experience in airport layout, planning, design and management that can be verified.

Consultants who wish to offer their services are requested to submit an official transmittal letter/statement together with their duly accomplished and notarized prequalification statements, as provided under Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines, not later than **July 1, 2002** at the Pavements and Grounds Division, MIAA Engineering Building, MIA Road, Pasay City during official business hours only. Consultant's Prequalification Forms may also be secured from the Pavements and Grounds Division Office from **June 24-28, 2002** upon presentation of this advertisement and official letter of intent. Interested foreign consultants with extensive experience in the type of service and duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission may associate themselves with legitimate Filipino Consultants and must have proper authorization to practice their profession locally with appropriate Philippine professional regulatory agencies.

(Sgd.) **ELPIDIO L. MENDOZA**
Chairman
MIAA-PEAC

(PDI--June 21 & 28, 2002)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ESTATE of the late JEANETTE L. MENDOZA was EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED among her heirs as per deed of extrajudicial settlement (Doc. No. 80, Page No. 17, Book No. 57, Series of 2002 of the Notarial Register of Notary Public Concepcion M. Juatas of Paranaque City, Metro Manila
(PDI-June7, 14 & 21,2002)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of DELFINA S. VILLAFUERTE executed an extrajudicial settlement with waiver for TCT No. RT-49126 (166906), OC; T-297830 (M), Bulacan; & TD#11750, 11751, 11752, Pangasinan on May 30, 2002 per Doc No. 96; Page 18, Book 1, Series of 2002 of Not Pub Antonio D. Escalante of Quezon City
(PDI-June 21, 28 & July 5, 2002)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Vicenta M. Caluya has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs on June 4, 2002 as per Doc. No. 22364, Page No. 59, Book No. 44, Series of 2002 before Atty. Danilo Banares Notary Public for Makati City
(PDI-June 7,14 & 21,2002)

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Extrajudicial Settlement of State with Special Power of Attorney to the widow of the late Domingo B. Gonzena who died intestate left parcels of land under TCT Nos. 50077, 44654 and Lot No. 5859-A situated at Old Albay and Arimbay all in Legazpi City; Savings Account No. 303771045 with Metro Bank Legazpi Branch and covered with Passbook No. 5266243 with a balance of P70,518.66 and Shares of Stock of Ayala Corporation was executed by the heirs and acknowledged before Notary Public Jose Merino B. Madrigejos per Doc. No. 248; Page No. 50; Book No. XVII Series of 2001.
(PDI -- June 21, 28 & July 5, 2002)

## ERRATUM

In the ad of **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** which came out in the Philippine Daily Inquirer issue of June 20, 2002, **PD 1594** was inadvertently printed as **PD 1584.**

Our apologies

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*Always caring...*
**INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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**AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES**
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
**CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.**
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
**CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.**
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Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
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Our Dearly Beloved Papa

## Brig. Gen. ARSENIO LAPUZ TECSON, AFP, PMA '70

*Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 19th day of June 2002 at the age of 53.*

He is survived by his wife **Jeanette** & daughter **Anne**; **Mabel** the mother of his 2 beloved children **Joanna Precilla** & **Abel**; his mother **Lucilla Lapuz Tecson**; his sister **Dr. Precilla Tecson-Famularcano**; his brothers **Engr. Napoleon L. Tecson** and **Engr. Lewis L. Tecson**. They and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Veterans Center, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 23, 2002 at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

*1st Death Anniversary*

## EVELYN REYES SANTIAGO

January 24, 1946 - June 21, 2001

In loving memory:

Husband **Col. Mariano R. Santiago** (Ret.), children **Armi Rose, March** and **Ma. Theresa** and **Mar Michael**; grandchildren **Al Christopher, Armi Cecilia** and **Maryn**.

Would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us as we celebrate with joy the memory of her life on earth as well as her eternal reward in heaven. Masses will be offered on June 21, 2002, 6:00 p.m. at the following churches:

**Quezon City Holy Spirit Parish Church** — BF Homes, Quezon City
**Lagro Church** — Quezon City
**Immaculate Conception Church** — Concepcion, Malabon City

*Regina Edelweiss B. Mallari*

of Candon, Ilocos Sur and Quezon City

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 16, 2002 at the age of 44.*

Her bereaved husband **Carlos**; children **Clarisse Aeaea, Charmaine Rae, Reginald Carlo** and **Elijah Giancarlo**; father **Candido Balbin Jr.**; brothers **Bong** and **Mallo**; sister **Kit**; brother-in-law **Danny**; mother-in-law **Remy**; sisters-in-law **Bella** and **Grace**, nephews, niece, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 22, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park (Novaliches) after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross Chapel.

## CLARA FERNANDEZ PATENIA

*Peacefully joined her Creator on June 17, 2002 at the age of 80.*

Her bereaved children: **BERT & MILA, BEN & EDNA, OMY, ARTHUR & BECKY, JOEY & PATTI, JIMMY & JENNY**; and grandchildren: **SUZETTE, JOCELYN, SHIRLEY MAE, SHEILA, RUPERT, BENJIE, JASMIN, JACKIE, ANNA, CATHY, CLAIRE, ERNIE** and **PATRICK** request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 23, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Arlington.

*O Sacred Heart, o Love Divine*
*Make our love so like to Thine.*

*In Loving Memory*
*of*

## Eugenia Suarez Atienza

*December 3, 1910 - June 22, 1995*
*Widow of General Rigoberto J. Atienza*
*at whose grave at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani*
*her remains have now been re-interred*

Her children Zenaida and David Clymer, Eloisa and Victor Lim, Herminia Atienza-Ilano, Rosalinda and Balbino Hernando, Rolando Atienza, and Josefina Atienza-Salvaña request relatives and friends and readers to remember her in their prayers and to join in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on June 22, 2002 at:

Villa San Miguel Small Chapel, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City ..... 9:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel, Camp Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, QC .... 6:30 a.m.
Christ the King Mission Seminary Chapel, E. Rodriguez, Quezon City ..... 6:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart Parish Church, Scout Fuentebella, Quezon City ..... 7:00 a.m.
St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City ..... 7:00 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City .. 6:00 p.m.
Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City ..... 6:00 p.m.

On this occasion, her daughter Josefina Atienza-Salvaña and the family will launch the book *Praying and Living the Rosary with Mary— A Handbook for the Family*, and a CD collection of songs *Each Home a Little Chapel— Children's Rosary Album*, in grateful remembrance.

## Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

*Antonio Nebres-Yap Tanchuling*

who passed away on June 15, 2002

wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who offered prayers and material help; kept vigil with us; and in many immeasurable ways condoled with us in these most difficult times.

## MARIETA L. BEREÑA

of Taal, Batangas and Quezon City

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 19, 2002 at the age of 81.*

Her children **Hermie** and **Menchu, Mercy** and **Albert, Tony** and **Cora, Carol** and **Carling, Gerry** and **Bel, Rey** and **Grace**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 3-C, Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 23, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 PM Mass at the Most Holy Redeemer Church.

**"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."**
Matthew 10:39

## PEDRO F. AREZA

of Liliw, Laguna

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 18, 2002 at the age of 79.*

His bereaved wife **Regina**; children **Andeli** and **Howard**; brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel 3-B, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 23, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

**We accept Classified advertisement**
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Luzon**

*Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa* INQUIRER, *convenient na sulit pa!*

[illegible]

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The Inquirer Nationwide Classifieds

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**We accept Classified advertisements**
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Visayas**

*Diri na ta sa* INQUIRER *bay! Sayon na sulit pa!*

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Ms. Elizabeth Verdellor
Bubblea N' Swirls
Terra Building, Le Gallo Avenue
Bacolod City
Telefax No. (034) 433-3628
Cell. No. (0917) 685-2091

**Cebu**
Cebu Daily News
18-16 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618

**Dumaguete City**
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5799/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 225-1152

**Iloilo**
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Edulo-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 338-6932
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

**Kalibo**
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine & Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4156/268-6200

**Roxas City**
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines & Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-6586/522-6925

**Tacloban City**
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 325-6743/321-2954

**Tagbilaran City**
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

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Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Mindanao**

*Ake ya tu na* INQUIRER. *Sirea ya, sulit pa!*

**Butuan City**
Mr. Rolando Suan
R.C. Suan Trading
400 G. Flores Avenue
Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085) 225-3247
(085) 225-3160/341-5082

**Cagayan de Oro City**
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. J. De Leon Building
Pelayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Tasi corner Pelayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com

**Cotabato**
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-6511/
(064) 229-7089 (Local - Secretary)

**Davao City**
Debaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Guy Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Gaisano Hotel)
Tel. Nos. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931

**Babaeshin ATBP.**
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920

**General Santos**
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-8731/301-6244

**Pagadian City**
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Cumar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
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Cel. No. (0919) 660-6001

**Zamboanga**
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store
98-88 Savella Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-0573
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Noris Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Briones Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2985/990-4016

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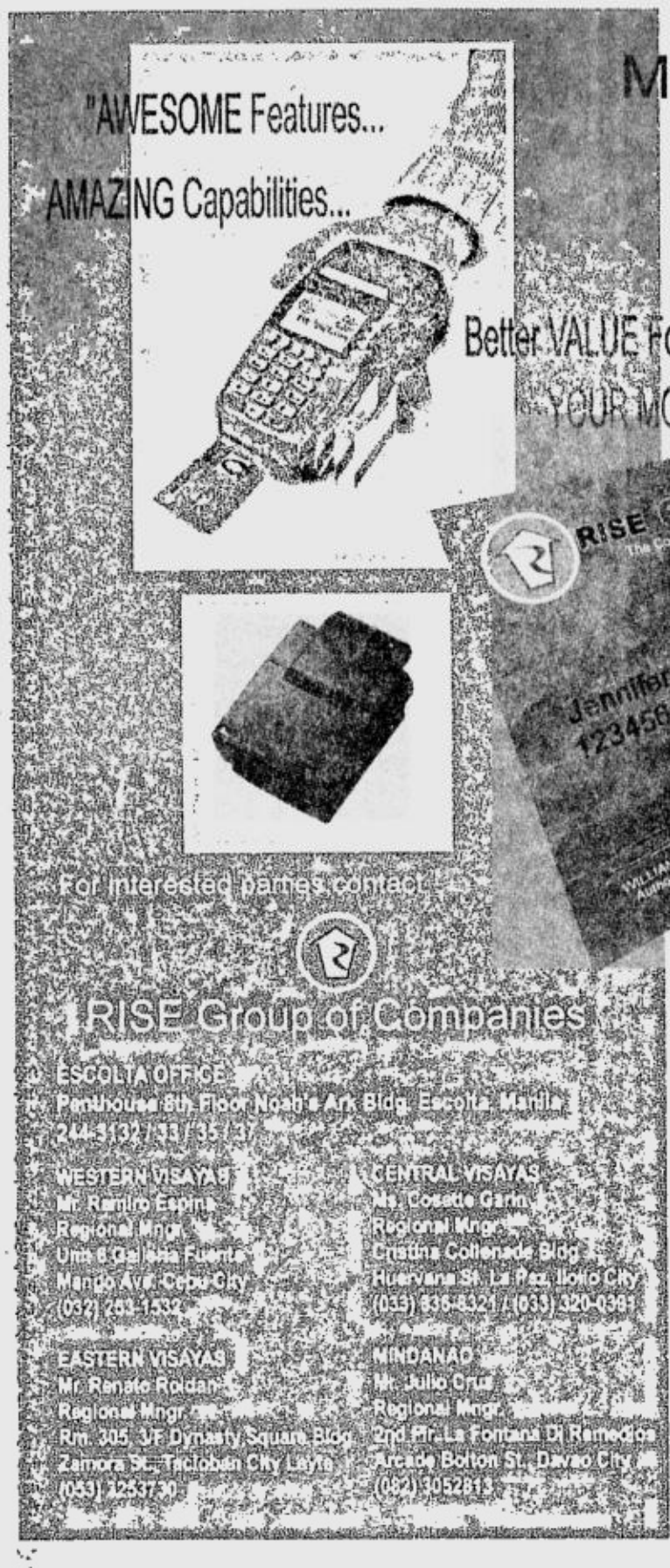


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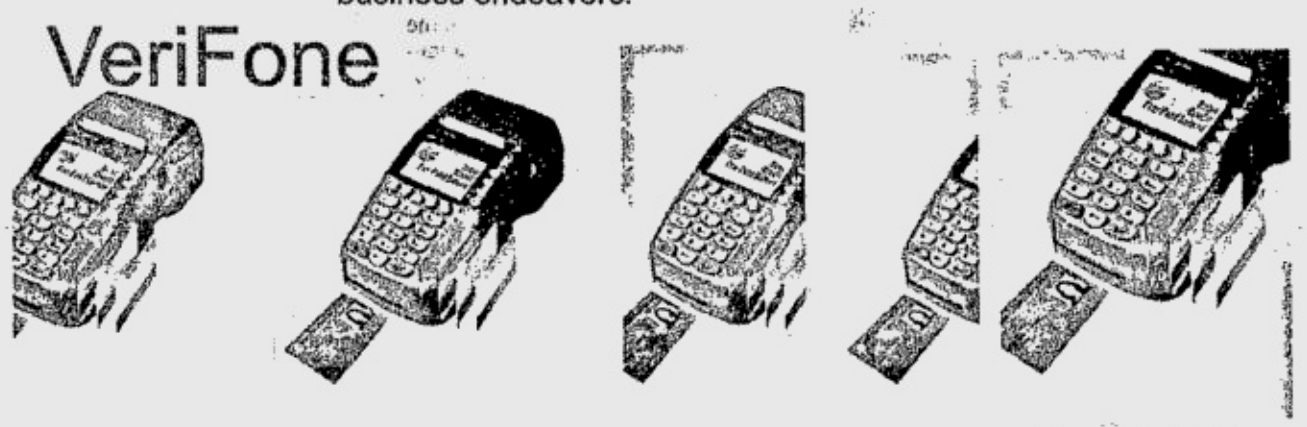

Omni 3750

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*Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

## AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Architectural & Engineering Design Consultancy Services for the proposed Rehabilitation of the Fire and Water Damaged Areas at the PICC Complex. Prospective A&E Consultant must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

1) Consultant should be a partnership or corporation, the principals of which must have at least fifteen (15) years of experience as Registered Architects and/or Civil Engineers and with at least fifteen (15) years of experience as Design Consultants.

2) Consultant should have provided within the last five (5) years design consultancy services for at least four (4) similar projects (specifically middle rise banks, hotels, and/or office building complexes with high standard quality architectural finishes; electrical, HVAC & electronic security systems) each costing not less than P50M and with an approximate size of 5000 sq.m. building floor area.

The provisions of Executive Order No. 40 prescribing the Guidelines on the Hiring of Consultants for Government Infrastructure Projects, as amended shall apply.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the AD HOC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini Street, Manila starting **June 25, 2002** and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same Office not later than 4:30 p.m. on **July 12, 2002**.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE B. VALDEPEÑAS, JR.**
*Chairman*

(Sgd.) **JUAN QUINTOS, JR.**
*Co-Chairman*

(PDI--June 21 & 29, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Asian Development Bank-Assisted
Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project
City of Tagbilaran

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date:
ADB Loan No. 1367-PHI
MDF Subloan No. 0496-PHI
Subproject No. 005-PHI

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank, herein referred to as the "Bank", in various currencies towards the cost of the Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under contract(s) or the Supply and Delivery of various Sanitary Landfill Equipment.

2. The City of Tagbilaran, the Implementing Agency for the Project, now invites sealed bids from the eligible bidders from member countries of the Bank for the supply and delivery of various Sanitary Landfill equipment as follows:

Item No. 1 Two (2) units Garbage Compactor (Waste Collection)
Item No. 2 One (1) unit Backhoe (Excavator)
Item No. 3 One (1) unit Vibratory Compactor

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

THE CHAIRMAN
Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee
PRMDP-PAU Office, 2nd Flr. City Hall Building
City of Tagbilaran

4. A complete set of bidding documents can be acquired by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 3,000.00 per Contract Package. Bid Documents will be available on **July 3, 2002** until **September 3, 2002**. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 20, 2002** at 2:00 in the afternoon at the above address.

5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security or Bank Guarantee of Two and Half percent (2.5%) of the total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders on or before 2:00 in the afternoon, **September 3, 2002** immediately after which bids will be publicly opened.

6. Bidders may submit bids for any or all of the items and quotations must be for any or all the equipment items and at full quantityies described under this contract package being bidded.

7. The City of Tagbilaran reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSE V. TORRALBA**
*City Mayor*
*Chairman, PBAC*

(PDI--June 19, 21 & 23, 2002)

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INQUIRER
# RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

## Doggone taxman

**Q.** How did the Doberman pinscher get its name?

**A.** From Ludwig Dobermann, a German tax collector by day and watchman by night. Aware of the unpopularity of his daytime job and the risks of his evening work, Dobermann, of Apolda in Thuringia (a south-central German region), developed in the 1880s a particularly fierce breed to help him in his rounds. Pinscher, on the other hand, is the name of a type of terrier that originated in Pinzgau, a district in Austria. Today Dobermans are widely used as guard dogs.

**A Friendly Reminder.** Although a dog bite may look more serious, a cat bite is more dangerous -- there are more bacteria in a cat's mouth. Wash a dog or cat bite with soap and water, rinse in running water for at least 15 minutes, and cover with a dressing or a clean cloth. Try not to move the affected area until the bite has been treated by a doctor. By the way, rabies can be transmitted if a rabid animal licks on open wound. Because the disease is fatal unless treatment begins at once, it's important to identify the source of the bite.

***Classified Odd.*** On June 3, 1994 police in Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada, arrested Leon Hetu, 50, after he used a bulldozer to tear down the house of his girlfriend, Mildred Stychyshyn. She explained that Hetu, an unemployed bulldozer operator, became angry when she refused to let him in because he was drunk. Two months earlier, Hetu had attacked her house with a bulldozer, taking off the corner where her master bedroom had been.

**WORD WATCH**

**Perwisyo** : from the Spanish *perjuico*, 'harm, damage, prejudice.'

PDI -- June 21, 2002

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**INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS**

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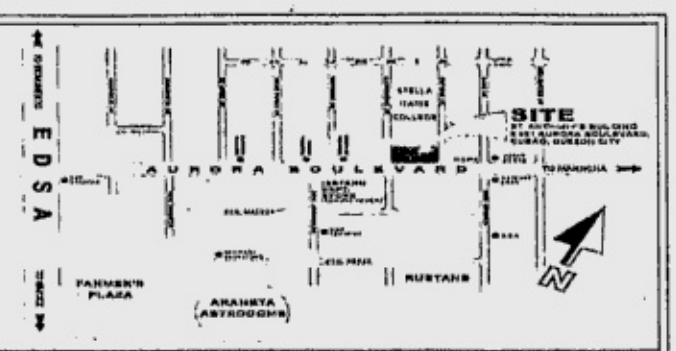
For inquiries, please call
**912-9008** to **11**.



BUSINESS*Friday*

*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

# Will the 'sari-sari' stores close shop with liberalization?

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

LOCAL retail companies viewed March 25,2002 with mixed feelings.

On one hand there were those that believed the opening up of the local retail industry to wholly owned foreign retail companies would present a good opportunity for growth, and on the other, there were those who feared that it would mark the end of their companies' existence.

Local retailers who have not been able to keep up with world standards have reason to fear.

This is because some of the world's largest retail companies are already starting to make inroads into the big Philippine market with a population of 70 million, more than half of which are below 25 years old.

Roberto S. Claudio, president of the Philippine Retailers Association, said in his presentation during the Philippine Business Outlook 2002 conference last February, that the opening up of the industry represents a big challenge and would force the traditional retailers to change.

At present, as much as 65 percent of the retail outlets in the Philippines are considered traditional outlets compared to only 10 percent in Singapore.

These traditional outlets include supermarkets, groceries, wet markets and small mom and pop retail stores, as opposed to modern conveniences such as a hypermart, superstore, warehouse club and discount stores.

Claudio predicted that the influx of foreign retailers would lead to retailer consolidation, especially in the food/grocery, department store formats and home furnishings/electronics.

"Foreign retailers will leverage their successes and lower operating costs in the region to start attacking key consumer markets . . . Consumers will look for fresher merchandise offerings," he added.

So will liberalization kill the *sari-sari* stores?

Not necessarily considering Filipinos penchant for buying things on a per piece basis (and on loan). The effect will be more on the mid-sized retailers who have to face up to the higher standards that the foreign groups are expected to bring in.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said in his year-end report that the DTI has already approved the application of retailing giants Casino Guichard Perrachon of France and the Makro Group of the Netherlands to operate wholly-owned units in the Philippines.

Casino actually earlier signed a P4-billion deal to take over and rehabilitate the bankrupt warehouse chain operator Uniwide Holdings Inc. but talks fizzled out following the worsening political crisis at that time.

Casino runs 6,900 hypermarkets, supermarkets, convenience stores and restaurants in France, Poland, Latin America, Asia and the United States.

The Makro group, on the other hand, has been operating in the Philippines since 1996 through Pilipinas Makro where it has a 38-percent interest. Its partners are Ayala Land Inc. and SM Investments.

Makro and Casino would join the Pricesmart group of the Philippines as the country's new operators of hypermarts and warehouse clubs.

McDonald's Corp., which is keen on increasing its share in the joint venture agreement with McGeorge Industries, was also prequalified to enter the local retail industry.

Under its plan, McDonalds, through its holding firm McDonald's Restaurant Operations Inc. will merge its 40 percent-owned subsidiary in the Philippines, Golden Arches Development Corp., and McGeorge Food Industries Inc. of George Young, the Philippine franchise holder.

Golden Arches, which handles the purchase or lease of McDonald's stores, will be the surviving entity.

Giant Wal-Mart Inc. of the United States as well as Carrefour of Europe were also reportedly in discussions for prequalification.

Drugstore and health and beauty shop operator Watsons already went ahead and struck a joint venture with Philippine retail king Henry Sy of the Shoemart chain.

The government has not disclosed the specific plans of Casino, Wal Mart and Makro but the firm expressions of interest could be viewed as a view of the things to come.

The DTI has been tasked to pre-qualify the prospective foreign retailers based on the Retail Law.

Foreign retailers were initially restricted to a 60 percent ownership, but this restriction was lifted last March 25 as required under the Retail Trade Act.

To be prequalified, the foreign retailers should have at least five stores, a five-year retailing track record, a net worth of at least $200 million and must come from a country where Philippine companies can also invest in.

# Tax and the City

**By Rodolfo Arvin D. Agbayani**
*SGV & Co.*

**TAX-FILES**

THE 1987 Constitution provides that: "Each local government unit shall have the power to create their own sources of revenue and to levy taxes, fees, and charges subject to such guidelines and limitations as Congress may provide consistent with the basic policy of local autonomy" (Section 5, Article X).

Congress enacted Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code to provide cities and municipalities with proper guidelines in the imposition of business tax on certain business enterprises and through an appropriate tax ordinance.

The Local Government Code (LGC) has defined "business" as any trade or commercial activity regularly engaged in as a means of livelihood or with a view to profit.

### Basis for business tax

The business tax due depends on the line of business the enterprise is engaged in and is based on the gross sales or receipts for the preceding year.

Proper business classification is crucial in determining the tax due. Each line of business is subjected to a different tax rate and even if an enterprise is engaged only in one line of business, the tax rate may even vary depending on the amount of its gross sales or receipts.

Although the ordinances of each of the cities and municipalities may differ, the LGC has various business classifications.

The Local Government Code defined "gross sales or receipts" to include the total amount of money or its equivalent representing the contract price, compensation or service fee, including the amount charged or materials supplied with the services and deposits or advance payments actually or constructively received during the taxable quarter for the services performed or to be performed for another person excluding discounts if determinable at the time of sales, sales return, excise tax and value-added tax (VAT).

It is pertinent to note that the rates provided under the Local Government Code are the maximum rates each municipality outside the Metropolitan Manila Area (MMA) is allowed to impose.

But cities and municipalities within the MMA are allowed to levy business tax at rates which may exceed the maximum allowed for municipalities outside the MMA by not more than 50 percent.

Business tax is payable for every separate or distinct establishment or place where business is conducted. One line of business does not become exempt by being conducted with some other businesses for which business tax has been paid.

The implementing rules and regulations of the LGC provides that in cases where a person conducts or operates two or more of the businesses subject to the same rate of tax, the tax is computed on the combined gross sales or receipts of the said two or more related businesses.

On the other hand, in cases where a person conducts or operates two or more businesses which are subject to different rates of tax, the gross sale or receipts of each business must be separately reported for the purpose of computing the tax due from each business.

All sales made in a locality where there is a branch or sales office or warehouse should be recorded in said branch or sales office or warehouse and the tax should be payable to the city or municipality where the same is located. In cases where there is no such branch, sales office, or warehouse in the locality where the sale is made, the sale is recorded in the principal office along with the sales made by said principal office and the tax accrues to the city or municipality where the principal office is located.

In cases where there is a factory, project office, plant or plantation in pursuit of business, 30 percent of all sales recorded in the principal office is taxable by the city or municipality where the principal office is located and 70 percent of all sales recorded in the principal office is taxable by the city or municipality where the factory, project office, plant or plantation is located. Cities and municipalities where only experimental farms are located are not entitled to any sales allocation.

In case of a plantation located in a locality other than where the factory is located, the 70 percent sales allocation is divided as follows:

(a) Sixty percent to the city or municipality where the factory is located; and

(b) Forty percent to the city or municipality where the plantation is located.

In cases where there are two or more factories, project offices, plants or plantations located in different localities, the 70 percent sales allocation is prorated among the localities where such factories, project offices, plants and plantations are located in proportion to their respective volumes of production during the period for which the tax is due.

In the case of project offices of service and other independent contractors, the term production refers to the cost of projects actually undertaken during the tax period.

For sales made by route trucks, vans or vehicles, the following are the rules on allocation:

(a) For route sales made in a locality where a manufacturer, producer, wholesaler, retailer or dealer has a branch or sales office or warehouse, the sales are recorded in the branch, sales office or warehouse and the tax due thereon is paid to the city or municipality where such branch, sales office or warehouse is located;

(b) For route sales made in a locality where a manufacturer, producer, wholesaler, retailer or dealer has no branch, sales office or warehouse, the sales are recorded in the branch, sales office or warehouse from where the route trucks withdraw their products for sale, and the tax due on such sale is paid to the city or municipality where such branch, sales office or warehouse is located.

Cities and municipalities where route trucks deliver merchandise cannot impose any tax on said trucks except the annual fixed tax authorized to be imposed by the province as determined by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan or by the city. In addition to this annual fixed tax, cities may also collect from same manufacturers, producers, wholesalers, retailers, and dealers using route trucks a mayor's permit fee.

The person conducting the business is liable for the payment of the business tax. Business tax accrues on the first day of January each year. New taxes or any change in rates accrue on the first day of the quarter following the effectivity of the ordinance imposing such new tax or rates.

Business tax is paid within the first 20 days of January, or in equal quarterly installments. The time for payment of the business tax may be extended by the Sanggunian without surcharges or penalties for a justifiable reason or cause for a period not exceeding six months.

Upon termination of a business enterprise, it is required to submit a sworn statement of its gross sales or receipts for the current year to the city or municipal treasurer. If the tax paid during the year is less than the tax due based on the gross sales or receipts of the current year, the difference must be paid before the business is considered officially retired.

The Sanggunian, through an ordinance, may impose a surcharge not exceeding 25 percent of the amount of business tax not paid on time and an interest at the rate not exceeding 2 percent per month of the unpaid business tax including the surcharge, until such amount is fully paid. In no case shall the total interest on the unpaid amount or portion thereof exceed 36 months.

# No such thing as coincidence in seeing certain brands on TV

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

REMEMBER Tom Hank's movie, "Castaway"? Notice how Federal Express was present nearly the entire length of the movie?

And how many movies have you seen where the lead actor or lead actress uses an Apple computer? "Charlie's Angels" is one, "You've Got Mail" is another, Carrie Bradshaw in "Sex and the City" always types her column in an Apple computer.

For those who had a good laugh at the movie, "Miss Congeniality," did you also suddenly crave for a frappucino with the plugging of Starbucks in the show?

If you think these are all coincidences, they are not. They are the result of product placements undertaken by the products' producers.

Steve Jobs knows a lot of show biz personalities so the free display of his computer may be due to this friendship. But most of the time, firms pay to have their products included in the TV.

And consumers are likely to see more of this, according to Jean Marie Dru,

**KEITH Smith and Jean Marie Dru**

chair and CEO of TBWA, one of the US' top ten advertising agencies, whose clients include Absolut, Adidas, Apple, Nissan and Sony PlayStation.

"There will be continued involvement (of products) in content," he says citing two reasons.

The first he says is the media needs more money for programs. Companies who want their products ubiquitous in the movies or TV shows pay the price.

The second reason is the zapping, or the tendency of people to switch channels when an ad comes up while watching a TV show. The creation of the remote control in the '70s is the reason for this.

With the product right in the show they are watching, viewers cannot just switch channels and are sure to notice the products.

In the Philippines, providing content in TV programs has been used for several years. However, the scheme is not subtle and viewers can still zap the segment unlike in the US where the technique employed is very subtle and the product promotion ends up as part of the entire program.

Dru says in the HBO series "Band of Brothers," the Jeep was present in almost all scenes.

The French advertising veteran came to Manila as part of an Asean tour of visiting local partners and checking out the local situation. He arrived with Keith Smith, head of TBWA Asia Pacific.

TBWA's local affiliate is a trio—Jimmy Santiago, Tong Puno and Melvin Mangada. The name of the local ad agency is TBWA/ Santiago Mangada and Puno.

# Using high-end tactics to sell a pen

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

STAR Paper Corp., one of the country's leading provider of office and school supplies, is using high-end marketing tactics to make its own brand of pens, Leone Gel Pens, stand out in the crowded ballpen market.

Star Paper assistant marketing manager stationary division Kenneth Lloyd R. Bringas says Star Paper felt it was an opportune time to establish a strong brand name in the ballpen market because there was hardly any brand that stood out among the dozens of pens in the market.

"We put up our own dispensers in bookstores and other retail centers. We even had our own marketing agents wear black and yellow makeup with the lion motif to let people know of our brand name," Bringas said.

**MARKETING STRATEGY**

Bringas says most people are surprised that a company would put so much effort in pushing a mass-market ballpen. "They normally see this promotion and marketing strategies for high-end ballpens like Parker which we also distribute," Bringas says.

Getting people to know the Leone brand is just half the battle. "The main challenge for us is to show them that our gel pens are superior to other pens in technology and fashion and are priced lower than the market leaders," Bringas says.

**AGENTS wear black and white shirts to sell the brand.**

Bringas adds Leone utilizes the latest technology in ink pens, the gel pens—which combine the best qualities of both ballpens and free-flow sign pens. "Gel pens have a broad range of uses like ballpens but the quality of its writing is comparable to sign pens," Bringas says.

Star Paper also came out with more choices in style and color to cater to the wide range of tastes and preferences of employees and students. "We're proud of how Leone gel pens look because our designs are mostly used for high-end brands," Bringas says.

Most importantly, Bringas says Star Paper sells Leone at prices between 13 percent and 50 percent off the leading brands. "We sell our pens at between P15.75 for the smooth-velvet gel and P24.75 for the gel line."

Leone Gel Pens also have refills sold at P6.75 just like the high-end pens. Star Paper claims it was able to keep prices of its high-quality affordable because of strategic sourcing of materials.

# Poor RP show in Cannes ad festival

**By Roger Pe**

THE PHILIPPINES managed to hold its own in the Olympics of advertising by landing two ads in the finals of the 2002 Cannes International Advertising Awards print and poster competition.

Ogilvy & Mather Philippines' "No Middle Ground," a recent Asia Adfest Bronze winner, and "Blade" press ads for The Economist, were the only Philippine ads that went past the judges' tough scrutiny in a sea of ads dominated once again by the US, England and Brazil.

Singapore took the cudgels for Asia with a 35-award harvest; followed by Thailand with 23; and Hong Kong with 14. So dominant was Singapore's performance that it even upstaged Australia which garnered only 12 awards.

Saatchi & Saatchi Singapore, one of Singapore's most internationally awarded agencies, grabbed almost half of the city-state's total output by putting 15 ads into the finals.

Its Hong Kong and Thailand counterparts also did well with Saatchi & Saatchi Hong Kong getting eight and Saatchi & Saatchi Thailand pulling the rug from under perennial Thai frontliner BBDO with seven.

**ECONOMIST ad by O & M Hong Kong.**

Cannes International Advertising Awards parades and honors the best creative film, television, print, outdoor, media, cyber and direct marketing advertising annually.

Over 16,000 entries are screened by a panel of internationally renowned creatives, each headed by a jury president.

At the helm of this year's judging is Jeffrey Goodby, co-chairman of Goodby, Silverstein & Partners, who is tasked to look for the "freshest of the fresh" and scout for those with "the big leaps, the daring, the beauty and the stuff that will make the losers jealous again until next summer."

In 1992, the festival became known as Cannes International Advertising Awards as organizers broadened the event to reflect the multi-media approach of advertising campaigns, which incorporated both audio-visual and printed media.

The Young Creatives Competition was launched in 1994, allowing a new generation of creatives to participate in their own competition. The Cyber Lions was added shortly (website and online advertising) in 1998 and Media Lions held for the first time in 1999, allowing media planners to join the festival with their own competition celebrating creative use of media.

Introduced this year, Lions Direct is the latest addition to honor creative direct marketing solutions.

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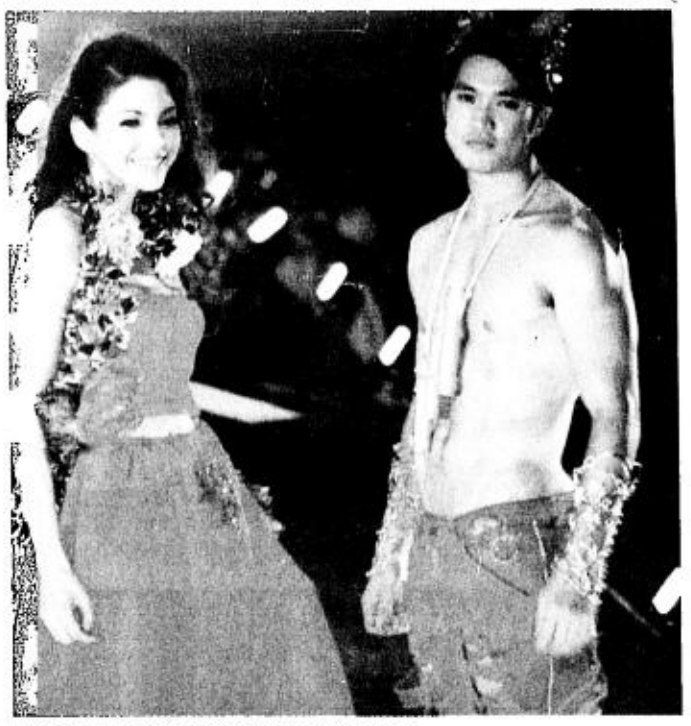
# LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

CURTAIN CALL. Ben Chan on the red carpet



AMANDA Griffin and Diether Ocampo

# Ben Chan walks the T-rope and triumphs

LIFE-STYLED
*Thelma Sioson San*

IT was my first time at Araneta Coliseum in years, in Cubao in general, and on a Friday, of all days, so **Carlo (Tadiar**, magazine editor) and I kept asking ourselves, while stuck in traffic limbo, why on earth we were going out of our lifestyle radius all the way to Cubao. Two reasons: **Ben Chan** and **Ariel Lozada** who, over dinner weeks ago, got us curious about whether or not Ben's Bench could fill the coliseum, and whether or not Ariel's direction could sustain the show's energy in such cavernous venue.

Yes, to both questions, we'd find out.

I wouldn't know if that was the usual Cubao traffic, but as soon as we got out of the car and caught sight of **Pepe, Pitoy's (Moreno)** driver, we knew this would not be the usual coliseum crowd. This Cubao landmark wasn't only filled; the queues at the entrance were also long, with the fashion-

BEN/ p.C4

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# LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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CURTAIN CALL. Ben Chan on the red carpet

AMANDA Griffin and Diether Ocampo

# Ben Chan walks the T-rope and triumphs

**LIFE-STYLED**

*Thelma Sioson San*

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BEN, p.C4

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Sa PLDT, bigay-todo lahat ang serbisyo.

Brand D

Waived connection fee
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Promo period is from May 12 to August 12, 2002. See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR permit no. 0929, Series of 2002

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# 'Power Principle' workshops for business leaders and public servants

## GOINGS ON

DR. Blaine Lee, author of the book, "The Power Principle: Influence with Honor," will hold a series of workshops for business leaders and public servants in Manila and Cebu in July.

Dr. Lee will conduct the Manila workshop on July 11, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the New World Hotel in Makati City.

For the first time in Cebu, the Power Principle Workshop is scheduled on July 17 (8 a.m.-6 p.m.) at the City Sports Club Cebu. Call 817-2726. Early bird discounts good only until June 28.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING. The Carl Duisberg Association of the Philippines (CDAP), an alumni association of former CDG scholars to Germany, in cooperation with the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft Asean Regional Office (CDGRKO) and the Canlubang Industrial Estate Association (CIEA), are sponsoring a one-day seminar "Environmental Meeting and Seminar" today at the Canlubang Golf Country Club. Call (049) 545-1500 or (0917) 844-3002.

PLANNING. Interested parties are invited to join the first National Strategic Planning Management of Senator Noli de Castro Independent Party for Vice President Movement in 2004, June 22-23 at the office of the senator, Philippine Senate, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City. Call 552-6601 for particulars.

CONCERT. In celebration of the Philippine-Chinese Friendship Month, Concert Nights at the Old Walls presents "Chinese Dances at Concert Nights at the Old Walls," an evening of traditional Chinese and Filipino dances on June 22, at the Puerta Real Gardens, Gen. Luna St. Intramuros, Manila.

Featured performer is the PCHS Dance Troupe, the performing arts group of the Philippine Cultural High School. The dance troupe will present Chinese traditional and ethnic dances, as well as Philippine folk dances from Mindanao and the Cordillera region. Concert starts at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Call 527-2192 local 603.

WORKSHOP. An introductory workshop on the Enneagram dubbed "Unraveling the Secrets of Personality," July 6 and 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Center for Health and Creative Arts, 59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC.

Conducted by Fr. Jose Ma., de Leon, S.J., foremost Enneagram expert in the Philippines, the workshop will equip participants with a practical lifetime tool for understanding human personality and gaining deeper self-knowledge. Call 434-5381 or (0919) 709-1436.

CREATIVITY SEMINAR. Musician and photographer Jim Paredes holds a new series of his well-known "Tapping the Creative Universe" seminar, June 24, 26 and 27 and July 1, 3 and 5 at the Rockwell Club.

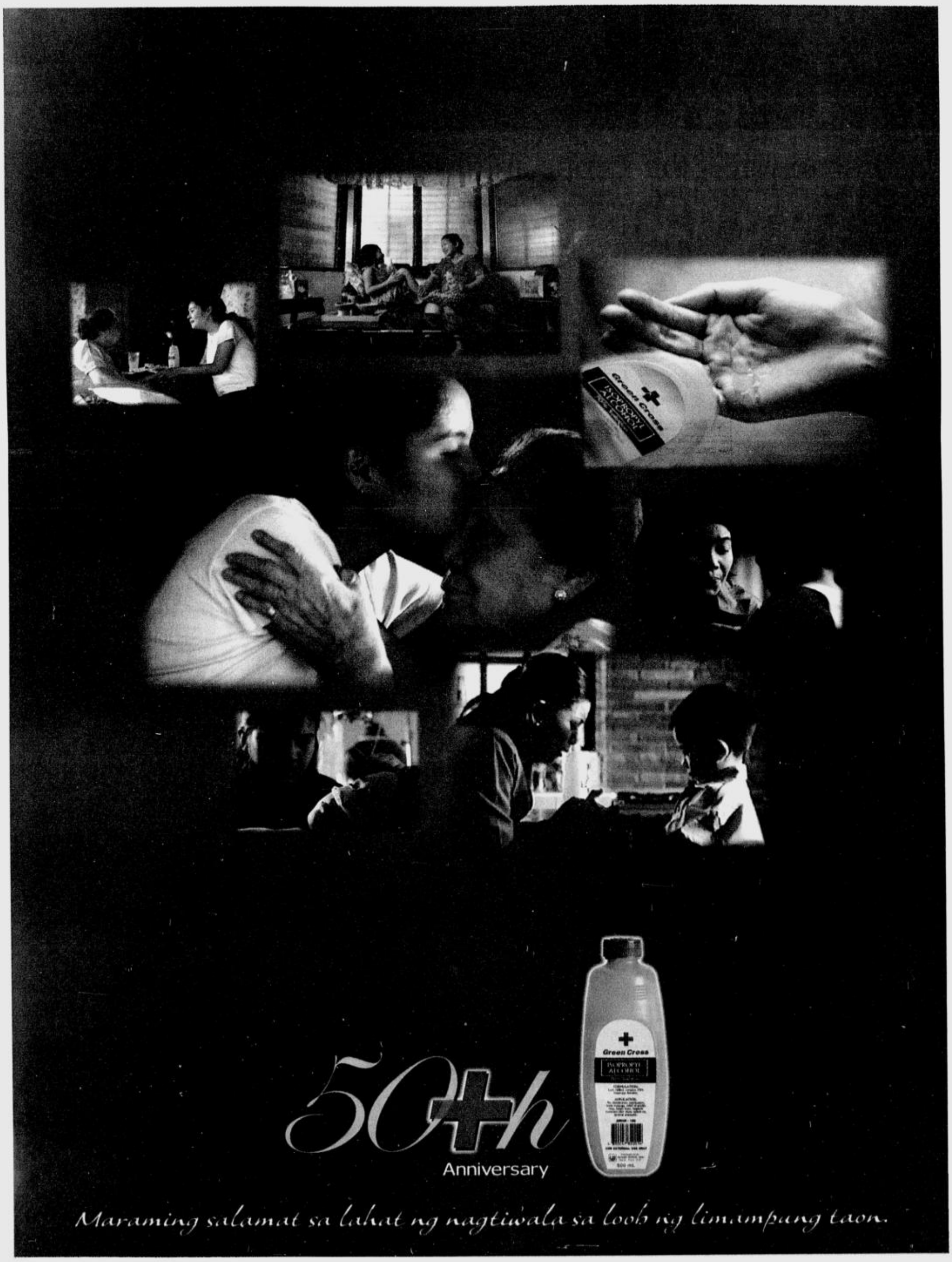
The seminar has gained adherents from people from all walks of life. Call 426-5375/3208.

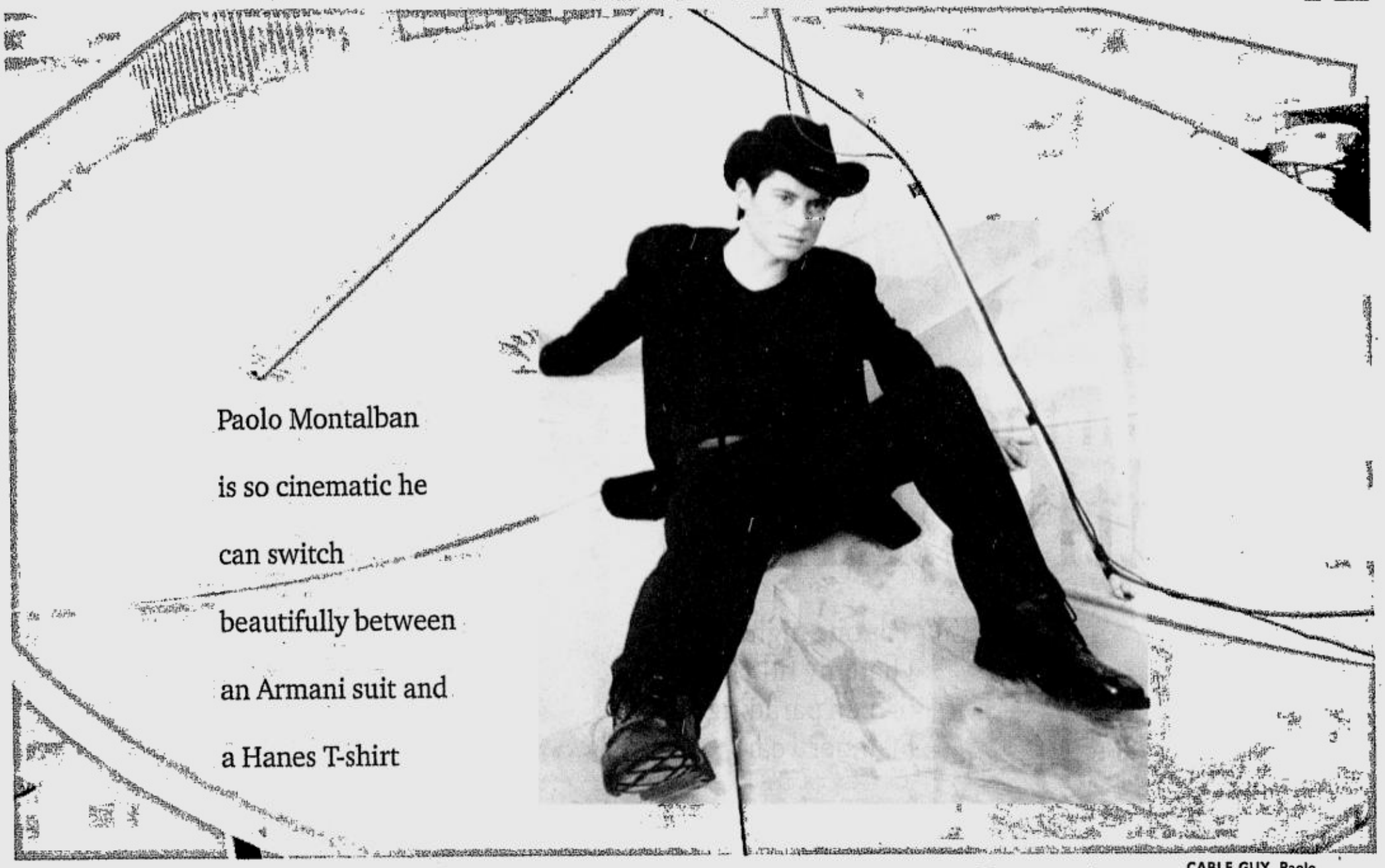
# *Seminar on floral artworks*

WHAT used to be a novelty item and a favorite project for home economics has become a favorite of ecologists. Dried flowers and permanent botanicals or artificial flowers, are now commonly used for flower arrangements in homes and offices.

Green 2000 Garden Center, the country's premier one-stop garden shop, will conduct seminar-workshops on basic flower arrangements using dried flowers on June 22, and permanent botanicals on June 29 at the AEK Building, 40 E. Rodriguez Ave., QC. Admission is free.

The lectures, which start at 2 p.m., will cover basic styles in flower arranging-round and low, long and low as well as one-sided. These styles are suitable for table centerpieces, buffet table and corner arrangements. Color combinations, choosing flowers and containers will also be discussed. For more information, call 711-9636 or 712-0471.






# American 'adobo' personified

CABLE GUY. Paolo Montalban connects in an all-black ensemble consisting of an Armani jacket, Schiezzer T-shirt and a pair of French Connection flat front pants.

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Joan Bondoc**

ASIDE from being down-to-earth, Paolo Montalban, the winsome Filipino-American actor who co-starred in Laurice Guillen's "American Adobo" is also self-effacing. He shows up for this shoot at short notice and despite having to catch a flight to Brisbane in less than 24 hours.

"I've mastered the art of the 10-minute workout," he shares when asked how he achieved such a toned physique. "I wouldn't say I have an excellent body. It's still a work in progress."

## SINGULAR STYLE

The camera doesn't do Paolo justice. He looks so much better in person, perhaps because he is so nonchalant and is not forever wanting to impress. He dutifully wades on water, sits on an exhaust box and clambers atop a satellite dish—a dream model, if there's one. Like a real trooper, the 29-year- old actor doesn't mind changing outfits in a makeshift dressing room.

"Personal style is mercurial," he says. "I usually go for stuff that aren't too faddy."

### Preferrably tapered

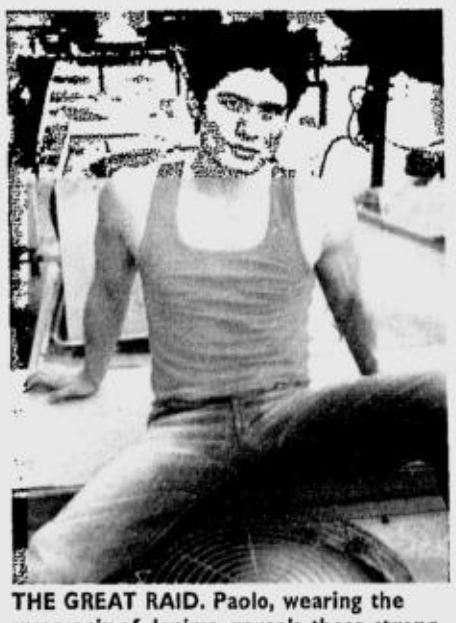
Despite being blessed with a gorgeous body, Paolo still has a hard time finding the right designer jacket. He prefers tapered suits to boxy ones that are usually sold off the rack. He has found the ideal fit in Armani.

"Most designers don't design clothes for big guys," he shares, "so they tend to be boxier. Designers assume that guys with big necks like me also have big waists, but that doesn't apply to me."

Paolo also goes for Diesel jeans and outfits by Banana Republic and Guess whenever he feels "athletic." He's also partial to Cuban shirts, less formal versions of the Philippine *barong*. He has yet to invest in one, but has bought what he considers the next best thing: a Dolce & Gabbana long-sleeved shirt made of a lace-like material.

For this photo shoot, Paolo brings a combination of signature stuff and unknown brands, particularly sleeveless cotton tops that show off his powerful arms, plus three pairs of footwear: tan slip-ons, black calf-

AMERICAN/ p.C7



THE GREAT RAID. Paolo, wearing the same pair of denims, reveals those strong arms and washboard abs in a bright *sando*.

TANTALIZING Tanya Paulsen

DARING MS D. Dina Bonnevie sizzles.

RADIANT Gina de Venecia

RAISE your glass to Rowell Santiago.

FTV'S newest host, sexy Lexi Schulze

FASHION FORWARD. Preview editor Pauline Suaco

BOLA belle Gaita Fores before the show

AMEN to Ara Mina

# View from the bench:
# Breathtaking

By Gem B. Padilla
*Contributor*

AFTER WEEKS of pestering from close friends, gay friends, erst-while friends and pretend friends for tickets to the show of the year, Ben Chan staged the big event at the Big Dome last Friday.

Having seen Bench's "Brief Encounters" show last year, I thought I knew what to expect from this one, more or less. Not!

To avoid last year's scramble for a repeat, Bench billed this year's show as "One Night Only" and, believe me, it was more than enough to satisfy everyone's curiosity and, from time to time, take one's breath away. I, for one, was flabbergasted.

It all started with the impressive MTV-ish presentation on the wide screen, featuring the image models of Bench—Diether Ocampo, John Hall, etc. My attention was riveted to Marc Nelson doing his spiel in his husky voice as the real action took place at the end of the ramp.

Around 20 male models wearing Bench briefs and masked as Jomari Yllana came in from the audience entrance. The lights were off and, except for the flashing of cameras, all was dark.

BENCH gladiator Wendell Ramos

FLY with me, says John Hall.

ONE night with Marc Nelson

## 'For one night only, I had my fill of men parading in underwear'

These models, with their backs to the audience, proceeded to take off their underwear, go up the stage and walk the length of the ramp holding their discarded briefs in such a wicked way as to cover their privates, and only their privates. I thought I was going to collapse! Talk about doing the Full Monty—almost! I've been around the fashion block, but this show, at the risk of sounding naïve, managed to shock me.

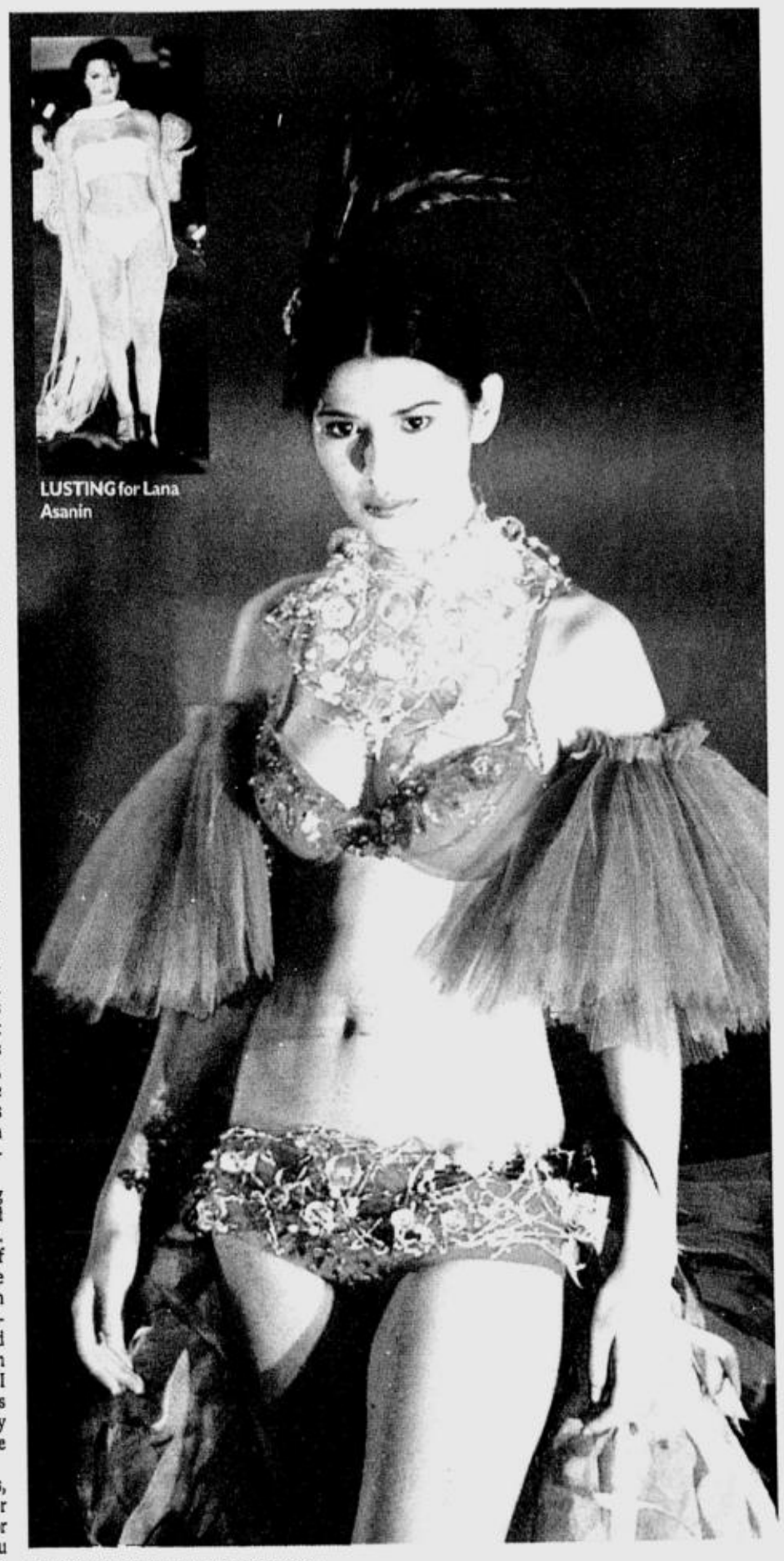
The first part of the show featured Bench's Overhauled Denims. Printed denim skirts and pants were spotlighted with a bit of theatrical presentation. Except for the "big hair," which I think made the female models look less attractive, it was nicely done.

As for the highlight of the evening, the underwear collection, I have to say that Bench went all out in more ways than one. The stage was swarming with models both male and female, around 150 or so: I had my fill of men parading in underwear.

Call me a prude but I have to confess that I prefer the execution of last year's women's undergarments segment. This year's presentation could have gone in other creative directions aside from the one they took, which was just plain bared breasts. I don't know what reactions that particular portion was supposed to elicit, but from me it was shock and a little bit of the discomfiture thinking about how the models must have felt at baring their breasts in such a venue. Even when you know what you're signing up for, it is never easy.

Lana Asanin, Aya Medel and up-and-coming show-biz personality Aubrey Miles truly spiced up the show and had the audience cheering. Richard Gomez in briefs was a vision out of Victoria's Secret, if you can imagine a male version so heavenly. I'm not familiar with Wendell Ramos but he sure tickled the imagination of the audience, both the men and women. John Estrada wowed the audience with his "Hansel" projection (think "Zoolander"). I have to laud the audacious JR Isaac for his ramp debut. He walked down the runway Patty Betita style. She would have been proud had she witnessed it.

Whether or not we're ready for such events, both producing and watching them, is not for me to say. It is another bold and brave move for Bench. All I can say to Bench is you did it. You succeeded in pushing the envelope. You continue to astonish us. Bottoms up!



LUSTING for Lana Asanin

ASSUNTA de Rossi as carnival queen

# Ben Chan walks the T-rope and triumphs

From page C1

istas, the mini-A-list, and the real and quasi-celebs thrown together with—uh, for want of a better word—the rest. I knew this wouldn't be the trademark homogenous audience of a hunk show, this wouldn't just be the gay crowd. Besides, Bench's "One Night Only" last Friday wasn't like Bench's much-talked-about hunk show of two years ago at World Trade Center. This year, Ben was more enterprising (as if he could be any more enterprising); he was out to lasso both mass and class market with his hunk-slash-babe show. ***(See Tim Yap's photo recap of guests, p.C5)***

### Cutting-edge

In typical Ariel Lozada fashion, the giant video on centerstage signaled the show's start. This time it was a video blended with a physical prop—a pyramid "garter" made up of Bench underwear (what else?)—that came to view as the scrim went up. But what worked up the crowd at the onset wasn't Ariel's cutting-edge video but the parade—from the audience side—of guys who were bare from head to toe, each one holding a piece of Bench underwear to cover their private parts (as if this show was about privacy). The men had already hopped on stage when I caught sight of them because, as usual, I was busy people-watching, not flesh-watching, not yet anyway.

Of course, this was a flesh show; how else could you pitch underwear (for both him and her), or even tees, casual tops and separates, and denims (after Calvin Klein, jeans could never be set apart from sex and skin)?

The openers were the leading models in skimpy tees and skin-wrapping denim jeans in a bewildering range of accents and ornamentation. We were still in good old fashion orbit there—but you don't really expect me to review the fashion, do you? I didn't go there to answer that calling. What I wanted to see was what caliber of spectacle Ben and Ariel could pull off using a powerhouse formula of production values, Bench image-model celebs and skin/sex. And—more important, how they could project skin/sex to a vast, highly heterogeneous crowd and still keep the entertainment classy, or at least not tasteless. It's no sweat to serve up skin and seduction to a private, select audience, as Victoria's Secret does, but in a coliseum? And having done that, how would the director sustain the energy and momentum?

Bench pulled it off. It gave a coliseum-scale entertainment that pushed itself to the limits without going off the precipice and down to the pits of vulgarity. I always take my hats off to artists/entrepreneurs who aren't afraid to teeter on the borderline—armed with the smart use of multimedia technology, production craftsmanship and stage talents. Ben walked a tightrope act.

### First in many ways

The Bench show was a first in the country in many ways. It bared flesh in an intimidatingly vast venue. Toward the end, the women went topless. Throughout the show the men bared their top and their back, only their back, prompting **Alfie Lorenzo** to wisecrack, "*Akala ko ba* T-front, *yun pala puro* T-back" (referring to the men's thong underwear). But this flesh parade was done with astute production techniques. To me, more than the flesh-baring, it was this that made the show truly a first.

### How did it succeed?

First, to contain the action, to keep the audience's attention focused, Ariel was wise enough, this time, to eschew clutter; he didn't have any distracting sideshows anywhere else in the coliseum, not on video, not through models' parades in the audience, a technique he's always used in his other productions. He limited the action to the T-shaped stage, and used adept lighting, as he promised us he would, to keep our collective eye glued to the stage.

Second, he sustained the energy level through almost an hour with the innovative use of music. Ariel has always loved layering of sounds; this worked in some fashion shows, crowded the collections in a few. But in the Bench show, it worked just right. We learned that he didn't get off-the-record-store-shelf music. Instead, from his Paris trips, he sourced CDs of "raw music"—drums, base, for example—and used this as foundation layered with vocals and melodies, even arias. The multilayered sounds served as perfect backdrop for the collections unfolding, and more important, for all sorts of celeb models walking the stage. The music lent energy even, or especially, to the non-model celebrities thrust onstage. It fueled the adrenaline for all of 55 minutes.

Third, the fashion styling was perfect for the entertainment format (how else could you draw the mass crowd?). It mixed conventional fashion (e.g. casual tees and jeans) with fantasia. Visualize **Richard Gomez** wearing a huge headdress of entangled ribbons or papier maché. The head and body accessories, worn by both men and women, were eye-grabbers in themselves, ranging from the imaginative to the outlandish. **John Hall**, who was a favorite of the women, wore a unicorn horn that was more than a foot long (how suggestive). They were the work of **Dennis Celestial**.

Fourth, of course, there were the models, or rather the bodies—all kinds. From the ultra-worked-out torso of **Diether Ocampo**, the perfect build of **Marc Nelson** to the diminutive body of **John Pratts**. The women swooned over **Wendell Ramos** and John Hall, among others. **Assunta de Rossi** looked pretty. **Lana Asanin** had the perfect body. **Aya Medel** grabbed the eye with her huge breasts. There was a 14-year-old, whose identity people wondered about because he enjoyed the privilege of walking solo many times and did so nonchalantly. He's **Nicolei Spirig**, who'll be Bench's image model.

### Standouts

To us, however, the standouts were still Richard Gomez and his wife **Lucy**. Many noted how Richard's matinee-idol looks seemed to have acquired radiance through the years, especially onstage that night. Lucy was simply stunning and regal; she should do more modeling.

It was the chance to see these celebs in the flesh, full flesh, that the consumers filled the bleachers for. It was they who kept the crowd glued to the show—with their binoculars, which were sold before the show at P70 or P80 apiece, we learned. Again, how much more enterprising could you get? The binoculars, however, were not limited to the bleachers. Even **Maurice Arcache** on the front row had his, and used it all the time (I don't think it was poor eyesight though).

Obviously, this was a multimillion-peso production. Ben is on a league all his own. He dared to do mass marketing in a cutting-edge way long before foreign luxury brands had theirs in the country. He turned Bench into the most successful retail chain in the country, and even branched out overseas (Guam). He built it into a brand long before branding became the vogue, using his savvy in multimedia exposure, from TV to billboards. And he turned his brand into a status symbol whose class allure has been maintained with each product line he introduced. He was the first to succeed in and sustain the use of the celebrity as image model. In short, he showed the way for other fashion retailers.

In this way can Ben stand proud alongside world-class brand creators. Not bad for a soft-spoken man who, two decades ago, couldn't sit still over lunch with us—he kept on going to the restroom to contain his nerves. He was that shy and intimidated. And I wasn't even **Ethel Timbol**.

PREVIEW PALS. Agoo Bengzon and Tracie Anglo

YOUNG SOCIETY. Georgia Schulze and Jon Yulo

DESIGNER DEPOT. Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Vic Barba

REUNITED. Dr. Vicki Belo and Atom Henares

THE DEAN AND THE CZAR. Ben Farrales and Pitoy Moreno

ROCK AND STAR. Rock and Ces Drilon

# A long 'one-night stand'

**Text and photos by Tim Yap**

THE MUCH-AWAITED, most-talked about fashion show of the year reached its climax last Friday as celebrities, TV and movie stars, about 150 models and flesh lovers from all camps met and matched at the Big Dome for Bench's biggest ever "undress to impress" event—"One Night Only."

If you haven't heard of the Bench underwear fashion show, you must have been hiding in some basement. It wasn't a surprise at all to see all of Manila at the Araneta Coliseum—it was, after all, the hottest ticket in town. It was a sure bet that three-fourths of the city's gay population would show up for the testosterone showdown. But, lo and behold, a good number of people seen in the audience consisted of women and hot-blooded men. Spotted also were couples out on a date, groups of friends intrigued by the show, even families (yes, you'd be surprised) went out of their way and got tickets for this (to borrow from Anton San Diego) "must-see" event.

Cars streamed in and out with VIPs alighting from their cars and entering the Big Dome's main door with an air of pride and confidence you would think this was some Hollywood premiere night. In contrast, you could also see some who were too desperate to go in (without a ticket) that they ended up begging the doorman to let them in—to no avail.

### Erotic exhibition

Looking around from where we sat, I could see that the whole upper box up to the bleachers were all filled. The one nearest the stage housed the VIPs, media and the Bench friends while part of the upper box was reserved for the models' friends and family (there were hundreds of models remember?). The rest of the audience all bought a pair (or more) of Bench undies (each purchase was equivalent to a ticket) just to be able to witness the erotic exhibition.

From the fully nude procession of male models in the beginning (which sent the ladies and wannabe ladies screaming) to the topless array of female mannequins to the showdown of stars in fetish gear, it was one endless foreplay of delight. Ariel Lozada's approach was more dreamy than raunchy.

Some thought the show was long—like prolonged lovemaking whose climax seemed to be nowhere. Just when you thought it was ending, came another segment. And another. And yet another. It was one big tease act. And the audience seemed to love it. Ben Chan has, after all, mastered the art of giving the Pinoy customer what he wants, and more.

It was truly a sight to behold the whole upper box to the balcony section with glow-in-the-dark binoculars; it looked like a show all its own. Funny, too, the disparity between the two sections of society. Every time a show-biz figure would come out, the audience would either scream or burst into wild applause, to which some of the VIPs in the front row would scratch their heads and ask their seatmate, "Who's that?"

### Bulges and curves

Aside from the curves, it was also the night of the bulges. One popular female model did the show while two months pregnant. Two other models, seemingly female with their delicate features, were actually male. To showcase diversity, the show also employed an openly gay male personality to do the catwalk.

A famous liposuction doctor who occupied a front-row seat was also overheard quietly pointing to her seatmate which models had real or fake breasts—she could tell, for sure. "Where's Borgy?" Some members of the audience asked. According to his brother, FWD mag editor TJ, some parts of his contract haven't been ironed out. Plus, Imee's son did not feel the need to parade in his birthday suit. In overhauled denims then?

After the show, people headed to Gaita Fores' Café Bola, which was so filled it was hard to get a table. "It's impossible to get a seat—even if you know the owner!" said Mega's Liza Ilarde as she walked past us while holding hubby Elbert Cuenca's hand.

Much later, everybody proceeded to the after-party at Wherelse, where the testosterone and estrogen levels went fever pitch on the dance floor, like another climax waiting to happen.

PREVIEW SOCIETY. Yael Buencamino, Ana Kalaw, Candy Reyes and designer Paolo Raymundo

FUN AND FEARLESS. Myrza Sison and Robina Gokongwei-Pe

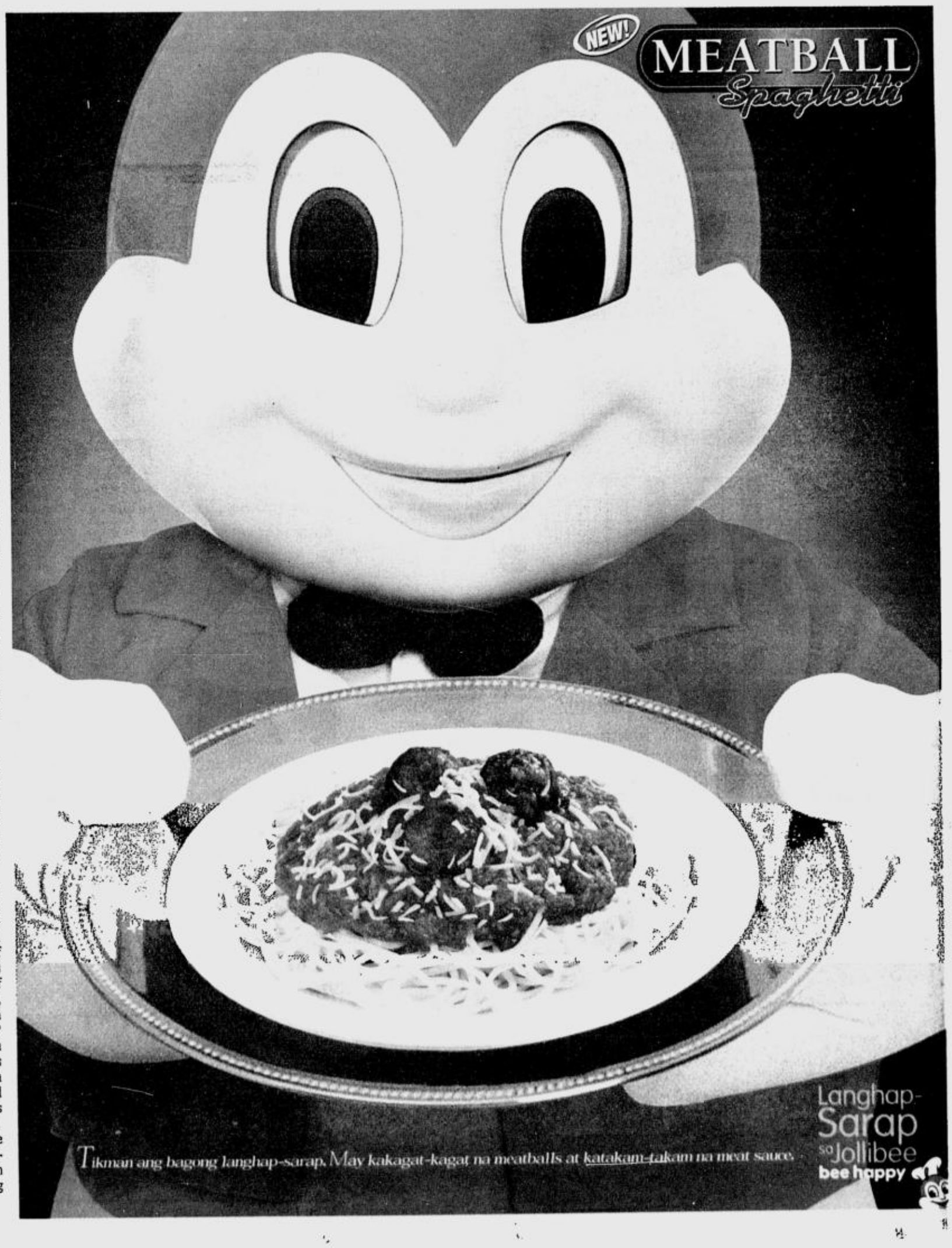
POSH N' SPICE. Wendy Puyat and Patrick Reyno

FAMILY FUN. Agot Isidro, Manu Sandejas and Olive Isidro

BUDDY BONDING. Leah Puyat, Anton Barretto, Chris Lopez and Rajo Laurel

BENCH session with Tim Yap and Tessa Prieto-Valdes at the Araneta Coliseum

IMMORTAL COMBAT. Tessa with Pinoy Hollywood hunk Paolo Montalban



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

## ATOMO AND WEBOY

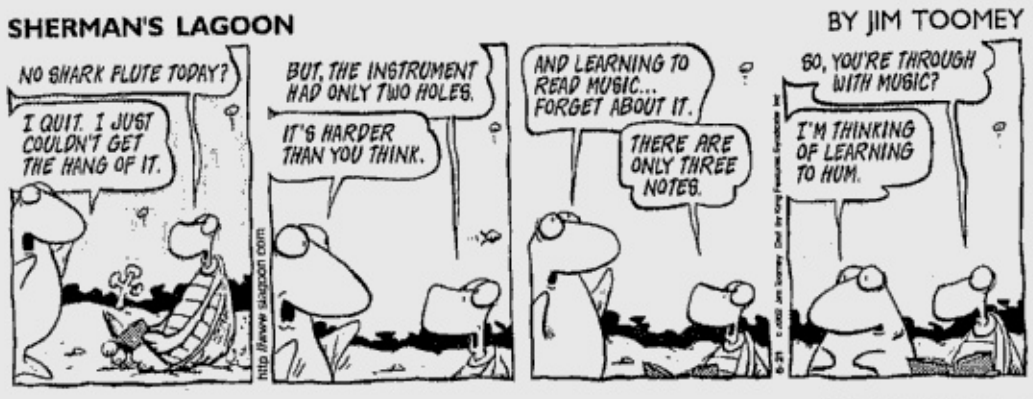
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY




## SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Maureen Stapleton, Prince William, Mariette Hartley
**Happy Birthday:** Your desire to help those less fortunate this year will bring you great admiration and popularity. Romantic opportunities will develop through the friendships you form. You'll be sensitive in your response to others and will get the support you need in order to be successful. Your numbers are 5, 18, 20, 27, 33, 39

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You may not feel like taking care of other people's problems, but don't decline. Rewards can be yours if you help out. Property investments should be on your agenda.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You may want to schedule a talk with anyone you are in a business or personal partnership with. Honesty and direct speech will bring long overdue results.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and pitch in. A team effort will help you finish what you start as well as bring a closer bond with those you worked so hard with.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** It's time to get moving in social circles. You may not like to leave your own territory but the places, people and things you are missing should entice you today.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** This is not the day to start an argument or push your beliefs. Focus on your home and making it more comfortable and entertaining. A secret involvement may be tempting but it will not turn out well.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You can inspire enthusiasm in others regarding moneymaking projects or fund-raising ideas. Before you move forward make sure that you have all your research done ..

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Opportunities to raise your social standing are apparent today. Put your ideas into motion but don't expect to get help initially. What you reap yourself you sow yourself.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You will have so much on your mind today. Personal initiative and creative activity will improve your family and domestic circumstances.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You will be thinking about money, contracts and how to get ahead. You'll be lucky in all that you do today. Opportunities to make money are present.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Your ability to get things done will be appreciated by those you encounter. Let your confidence lead the way and you will come across as someone who knows the game of life and plays it well.

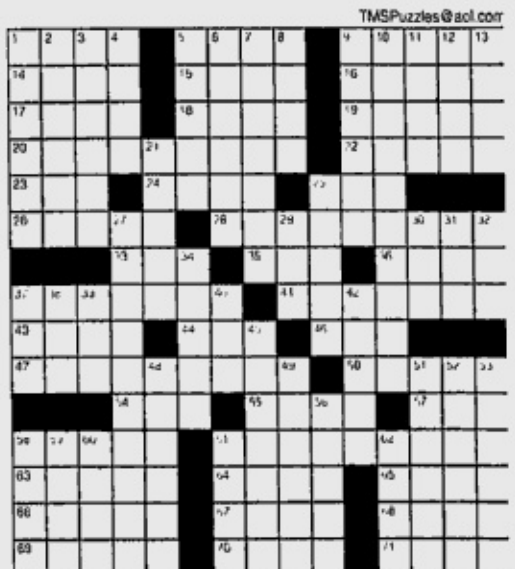
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You need to take a more unusual route. Check out new products or the possibility of starting your own business on the side. Go to a conference, trade show or talk to someone who can give you the information you're looking for.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** This can be a great day if you let down your guard and get to know someone who interests you better. Listen to your intuition and don't be afraid to let your feelings be known. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

**Birthday Baby:** You will experience spontaneous and impulsive friendships. You will be generous, frank and outgoing. You will get involved in projects that demand high energy and plenty of thought.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Chris Page
South Norwalk, CT
6/21/02

**ACROSS**
1 Blind element
5 Competent
9 Broadway hit
14 Encryption
15 CCLXXVII doubled
16 Neutral shade
17 Homestead plot
18 Tender feeling
19 Well worker
20 Barrel collection
22 Peruvian peaks
23 Zeta-theta separator
24 Puerto __
25 UFO personnel
26 Overcrowded
28 Bar used as a lever
33 L.A. clock setting
35 Beer barrel
36 Stir up
37 Engine activator
41 Taylor and Belle
43 Japanese golfer Isao
44 TV network north of the U.S.
46 Abel to Adam
47 At the same time
50 Marsh of mysteries
54 Ford fuel
55 Art patron of Ferrara
57 Yow, it's cold!
58 Twinklers
61 Principal pipe
63 Jeweler's weight
64 English river
65 Greek peak
66 Palmer of the PGA
67 Agts.
68 Get together
69 Blessings
70 Scottish Gaelic
71 African fox

**DOWN**
1 Frightened
2 Home in on
3 Only English pope
4 Young adult
5 Dwight's rival.
6 Blemish
7 Wide-spreading evergreen
8 Eternally
9 European ermines
10 Heart of a watch
11 "__ Lang Syne"
12 "Pursuit of the Graf __"
13 Towel ID
21 Wrench
25 Outer limits
27 April showers
29 Saul's uncle
30 Charged atom
31 Sephia car maker
32 South African golfer Ernie
34 Support-line staff
37 Newsman Donaldson
38 Front of a shoe
39 Alias letters
40 Diamond stat
42 Dead 'un
45 Butcher's knife
48 Squanders
49 Legally bars
51 Humbles
52 Garden blooms
53 Lavishly showy
56 Not at all relaxed
58 Wound cover
59 Poi source
60 Tuscany river
61 Hard or soft ending?
62 NYC cultural attraction

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | D | D | E | H | | B | A | S | H | | D | A | B |
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| A | N | N | A | | S | E | A | S | | T | O | P | A | Z |
| | | | M | A | T | E | | | G | E | R | E | | |
| | | L | R | O | S | S | R | E | F | E | R | E | N | C | E |
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| M | E | L | | A | R | M | R | E | S | T | | E | A | R |
| A | D | A | M | | E | A | T | | | A | K | R | O | N |
| H | O | T | O | F | F | T | H | E | P | R | E | S | S | |
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| C | O | V | E | R | | A | S | I | A | | T | E | E | S |
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| S | E | T | | U | N | I | T | | L | A | U | R | I | E |
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6/21/02

## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

## CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO

## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

# American 'adobo' personified

From page C3

length leather shoes and dark bowling shoes.

Has he always displayed an independent fashion streak?

"Actually, no," he confesses. "I used to ask my sister what would look good on me. I still ask friends or girlfriends for help."

Paolo doesn't have a special someone in Los Angeles these days to help him sort out the wearables, but he credits a former girlfriend for teaching him to gradually loosen up. "I used to be so neat until she made me realize to lighten up," he says. That means saying goodbye to tucked-in shirts and hair neatly parted to the side a la Clark Kent.

### Prince Charming

Paolo first caught the American public's attention after starring opposite Brandy in the nth remake of "Cinderella," playing Prince Charming before he breathed life into Raul, the classic cad in "American Adobo."

"Vincent Nebrida gave me a call and asked me if I'd be interested in reading his script," he recalls. "After going through it, I wasn't really sure if I wanted to play Raul, who's such a real bastard."

As a testament perhaps to his acting skills, not a few have noticed how Paolo was able to make such a one-dimensional character more sympathetic. The attention "American Adobo" has generated has been quite palpable.

What was supposed to be a three-week break in the old country has become a working vacation as he did several hosting gigs.

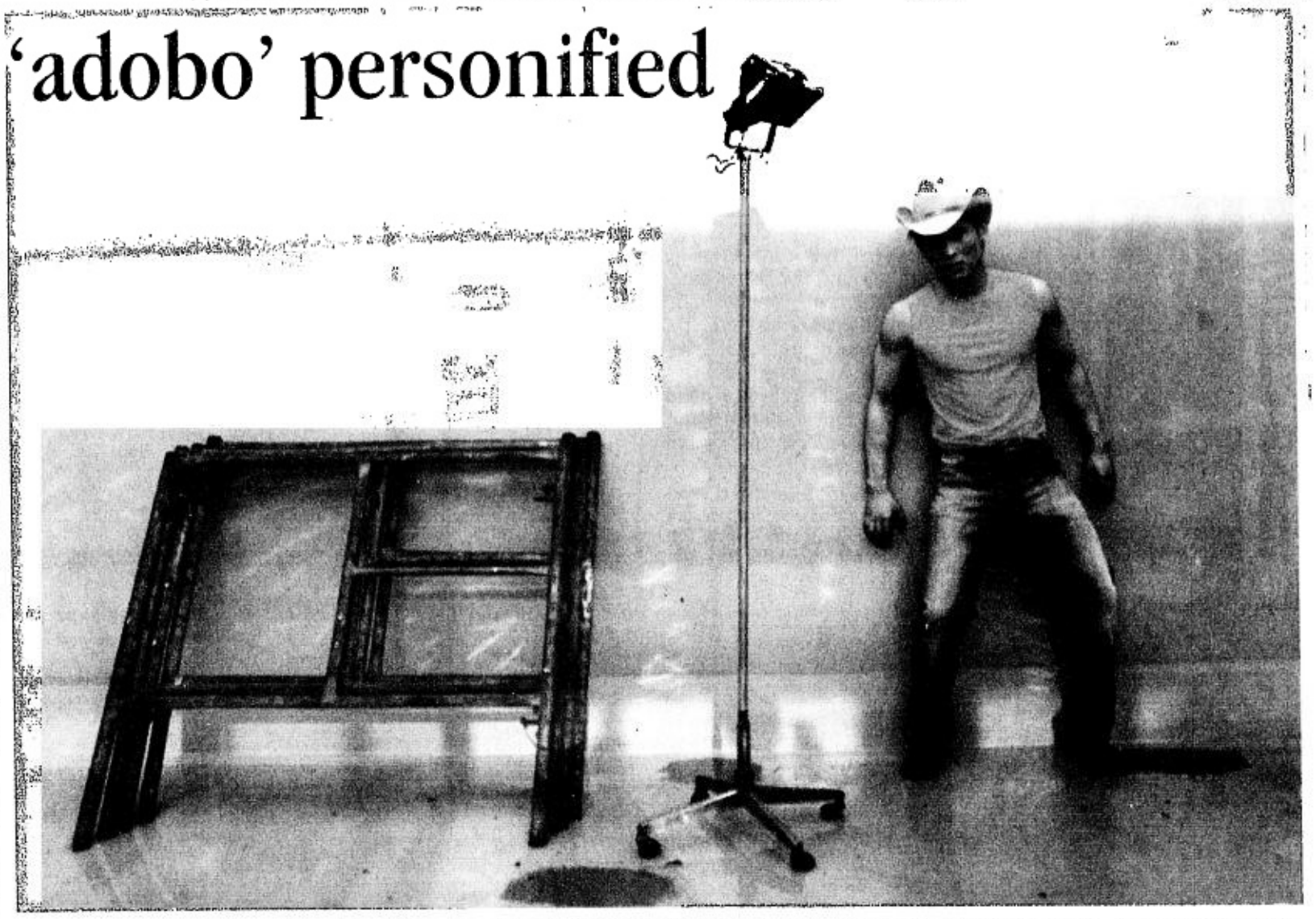
"It was actually my first feature film," says Paolo, who was barely two years old when his family immigrated from Manila to the United States. "Cinderella," he clarifies, was a film shot for TV.

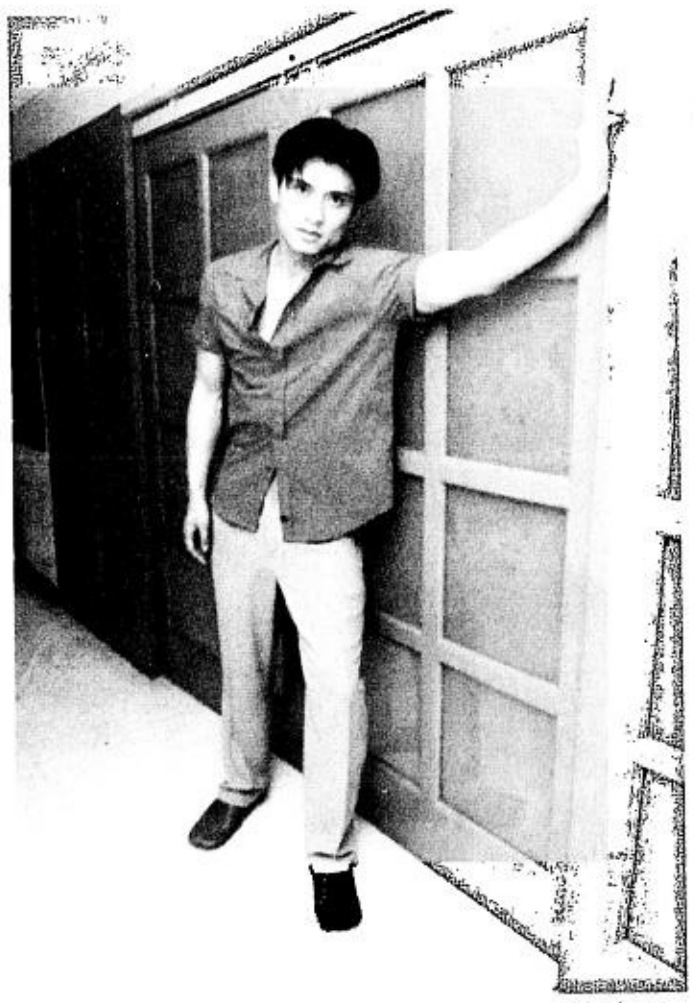
In between the two projects, Paolo kept himself busy doing a musical version of "Cinderella" with Deborah Gibson (yes, Debbie to an earlier breed of MTV fans) and "The King and I." Yes, Paolo is definitely Pinoy if only for his innate musicality.

Paolo, in fact, caught an agent's attention while doing a campus musical in Rutters University in New York. Believe it or not, the 6'2" looker was taking up a pre-med course in psychology before show business beckoned.

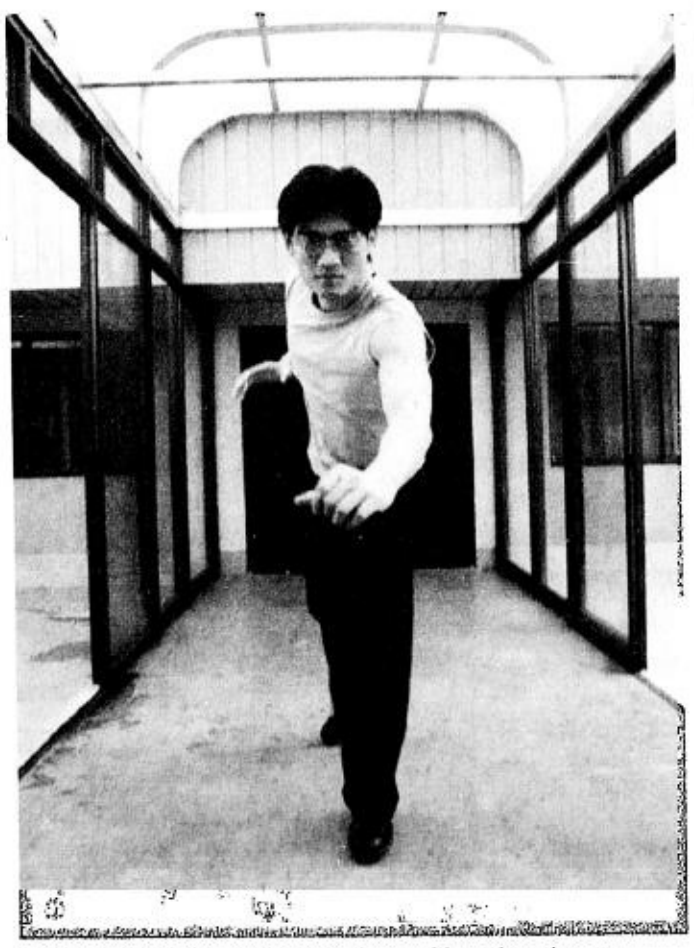
"He asked for my head shots and I sent him [some]," he says. "I got booked on my first audition. I've been working ever since."

These days, Paolo is on cloud 9 as he prepares to do "The Great Raid." Produced by Miramax Films, the World War II film is set in the Philippines and stars the likes of Benjamin Bratt and Filipinos Cesar Montano and Zoren Legazpi. Unfortunately, producers found it cheaper to shoot the ensemble piece—think "Saving Private Ryan" and "Band of Brothers"—in Australia.





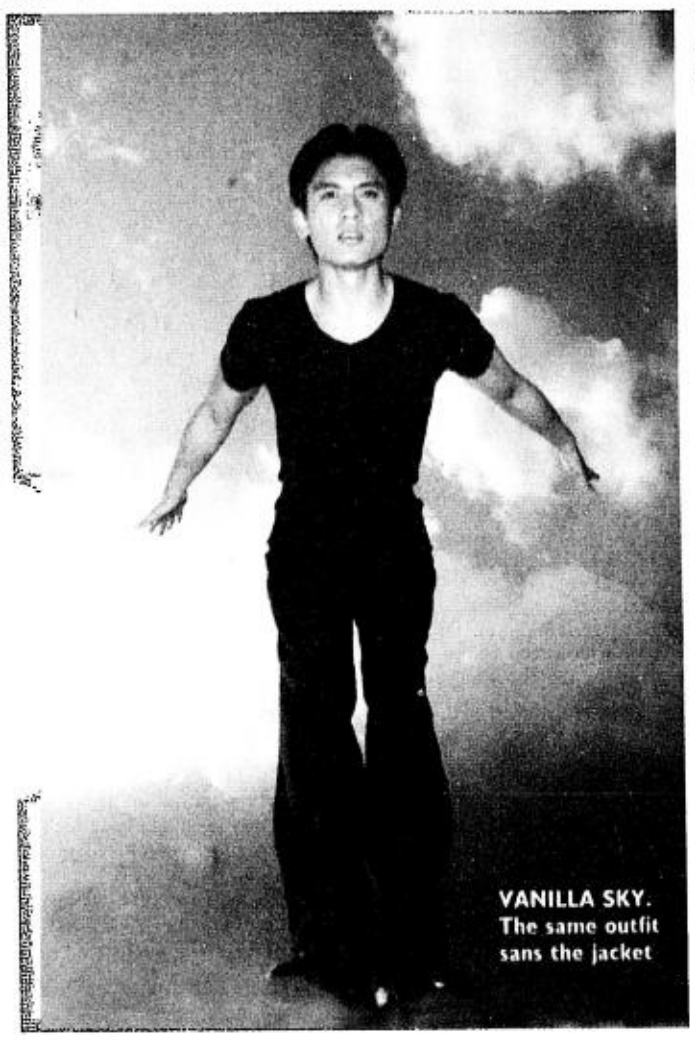
**PRINCE CHARMING. Paolo loosens up in a magenta shirt by Calvin Klein and a pair of khaki pants by Banana Republic.**



**MORTAL KOMBAT. Paolo keeps his cool in a sleeveless top by Tempest and a pair of black pants by Emporio Armani.**

## 'Personal style is mercurial'

PICTORIAL DIRECTION AND STYLING: TIM YAP AND DARA DAVID
GROOMING: HENRI CALAYAG OF H SALON
LOCATION: INQUIRER PENTHOUSE

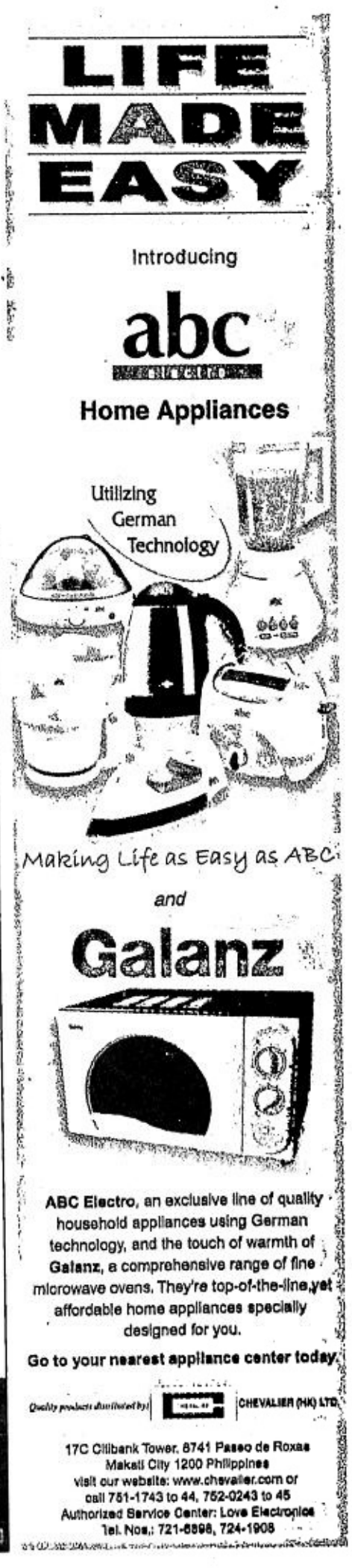


**VANILLA SKY. The same outfit sans the jacket**

**URBAN COWBOY. He goes rugged all the way with a cowboy hat, sleeveless melon shirt and a pair of faded Diesel jeans.**

"I'll be playing a Filipino-American soldier," he says with a hearty chuckle, "so that takes care of the language problem. *'Di mahusay ang* Tagalog *ko pero nagsisikap.*" We're pretty sure Paolo won't run out of willing and able Pinays to teach him the language...and more.

*E-mail the author avergara@inquirer.com.ph*



# Skirts get the high marks

BLACK with gold zigzag patch, P2,062

**Text by Camille Cruz-Reyes**
*Contributor*
**Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan**

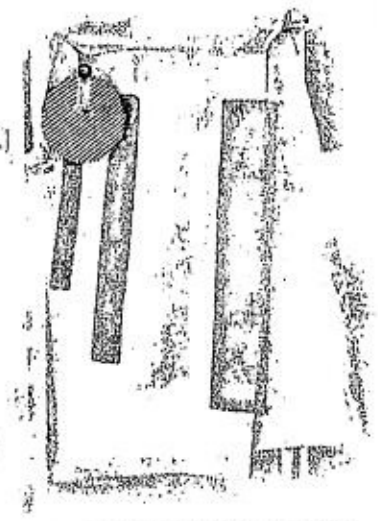
THERE'S no skirting around the issue. Whether you want to hide your thighs or trim your hips, the A-line style or slightly-below-the-knee skirt will work wonders. It has been around in any fabric, texture and color. There's even a denim version.

In pink and beige with blue detail or floral accents, the skirt is a symbol of your personality. You may go bold or subtle and pair it off with your favorite basic tops.

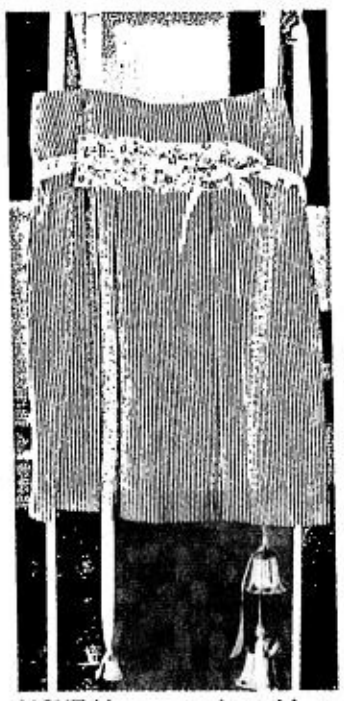
ALL ITEMS FROM CIRCUS, 5013 P.BURGOS CORNER DURBAN STREETS, BEL-AIR, MAKATI; TEL. (0916) 532- 1962

PINK voile with green belt, P2,235

The fashion staple always works in any style or label



FLOWER-PRINTED skirt with blue circle pocket, P2,260



LIGHT blue seersucker with bowling print patch, P2,100

SLEEVELESS red tee, almond three-fourth-sleeved tee, beach Capri pants and navy and light blue striped belt by U2

DARK brown wedge-heeled sandals by Unlisted

CHOCOLATE brown bag with front pocket by U2

BLACK spaghetti-strapped top, red three-fourth-sleeved tee, dark blue cotton/nylon A-line skirt by U2 and red belt by Esprit

BLACK bag by U2

# Update your closet

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Romy Homillada

THE UNPREDICTABLE weather has taken its toll on everyone's wardrobe. Blue skies today can easily mean overcast tomorrow. Worse, a heavy downpour in the morning can make you run for warm clothes only to find out the rest of the day heats up under a scorching sun. What to do? Grin and bear the discomfort?

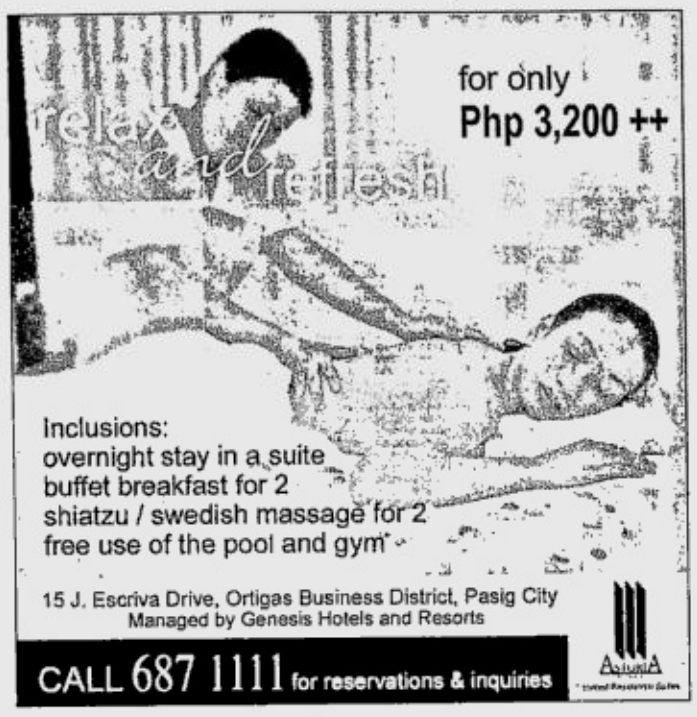
To avoid unpleasant situations, it's time to update your closet with basic clothes you can mix and match throughout the day. Classic denims, for instance, can be paired with turtleneck tee underneath a long-sleeved shirt when rain starts to pour. If the sun comes up, just take off the shirt and you're ready to face a comfy day or party till dawn.

The choices are endless. Capri pants go well with a sleeveless top with matching three-fourth-sleeved tee. Or, if wearing skirt for that feminine groove is your thing, pair it with spaghetti-strapped top over three-fourth-sleeved tee. Add some edge by accessorizing your getup with belts and bags.

CLOTHES BY U2
BELTS BY U2 AND ESPRIT
BAGS BY U2
SHOES BY UNLISTED
AVAILABLE AT ALL CINDERELLA BRANCHES

BAG with black patent trim by U2

BLACK denim pants, cornflower long-sleeved shirt, tomato red turtleneck and olive belt with metal rings by U2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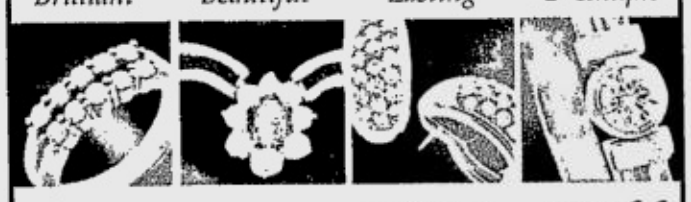

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# Mix it up in trendy jeans

BLACK denims by Poleci, lace black top by Vivienne Tam, inner white lace by Wacoal, red cuff bracelet by Jul Dizon

RED Paper Denim & Cloth jeans, Vivienne Tam black lace with beads, turquoise belt used as necklace

*Mutual Admiration.*

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FINDING it hard to get that perfect pair of jeans? Well, life is about to get easier. MIX Jeans Bar, which is opening in Robinson's Galleria soon, will be carrying the world's best jeans brands like Earl Jeans, Joe's Jeans, and Paper Denim & Cloth.

Earl Jeans was created in 1996 by former television and film stylist Suzanne Costas Frelwald because her favorite low-slung, slim-fit jeans were stolen from the local laundromat. Paper Denim & Cloth was established in November 1999 by Scott Morrison. Co-designed with Alex Gilbert, these jeans are made from American, Italian and Japanese ringspun denims. Jill Stuart, whose family owned the ladies apparel company Mister Pants, has over 45 international stores with the flagship located in New York's Soho.

Earl Jeans, Jill Stuart and Paper Denim & Cloth are available in leading specialty and department stores across the United States, Europe and Japan, including Fred Segal, Scoop, Barney's New York, Sak's Fifth Avenue, Harvey Nichols, Bergdorf Goodman, Joyce HK among others. In Manila, they will soon be available at MIX Jeans Bar in Robinson's Galleria.

**BLUE denims by Joe's Jeans, brassiere by Wacoal, necklace by Jul Dizon used as headpiece**

Bootleg, hipster, ripped, jazzed up—everyone has had a love affair with them

**JILL Stuart pintuck jeans, green and brown lace top by Wacoal, with red necklace and belt corals on the wrist**



MODEL:
PHOEMELA BARRANDA
MAKE-UP:
ERIC MANINGAT
CLOTHES:
JEANS BY JILL STUART;
PAPER DENIM & CLOTH; POLECI
BRASSIERE BY WACOAL
JEWELRY BY JUL DIZON,
EDSA PLAZA SHANGRI-LA

**JILL Stuart beige denim, brassiere by Wacoal**

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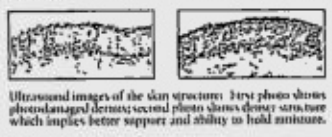
"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus, 33, AVP for Finance, interior design student, mother of two

Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within -- for a smooth, firm, defiantly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.



Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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IMEDEEN

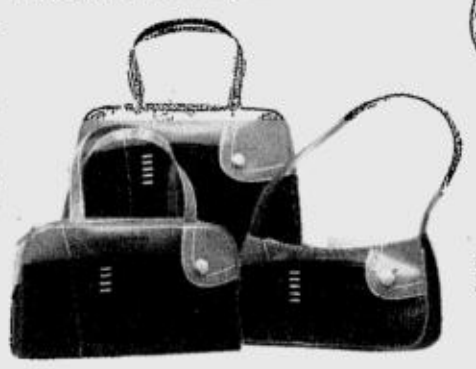
The Skin Care Tablet

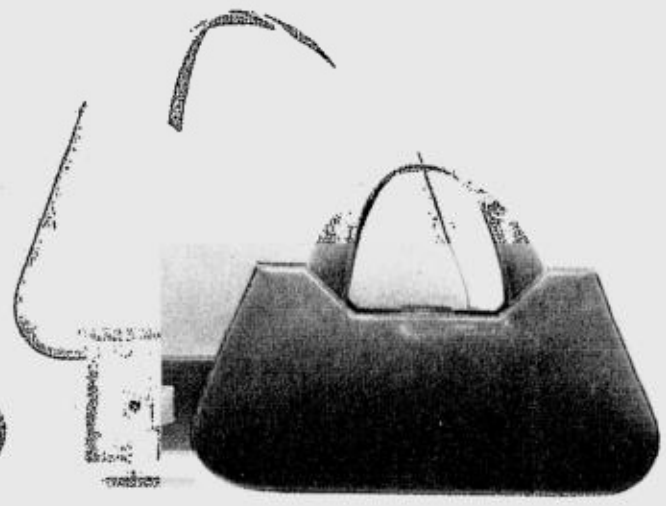
For more stories of real women www.imedeen.com


# Ocean inspires new look of leather goods

A FRESHER, more vibrant and colorful look awaits Lancel fans this season, with the ocean as its inspiration. The international luxury leather goods label is sending an open invitation to travel the world with a new collection that reflects Lancel traditions: creativity, modernity and functionality.

Recently launched by the brand's top executives, Lancel's managing director for Asia Olivier Arzel, and exclusive Philippine distributor Mabel Esteban, Lancel's latest collection reminds one of the force and dynamism of the Atlantic Ocean. It invites one to go on a cruise to Europe and the Americas with navy blue, dark red, and a full range of new models created to accompany the traveler in her everyday life.





LANCEL's latest collection

OLIVIER Arzel, managing director of Lancel, and Mabel Esteban, exclusive distributor of Lancel in the Philippines

Inspired by the seas, this collection also appeals to the emotions brought about by the colors of the Pacific Islands. There is a rainbow of pastel colors—light blue to remind us of the sea, light yellow that brings the sand to mind. So whether one is off to the beach or the desert enjoying nature and the sun, this latest offering from Lancel is perfect companion.

Lancel is available in its three freestanding boutiques located at the Edsa Shangri-La Mall, Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center, Makati City and Robinson's Place, Manila.

# Fashion takes on resort look and feel

THE WORLD'S most popular vacation destinations are the inspiration for Façonnable, a leading European name in ready-to-wear fashion. Clothes for both men and women evoke images of Havana, Capri, Saint Tropez, Provence and Japan.

The Saint Tropez collection harks to the island's wide, blue skies and turquoise waters which have made it the favorite vacation destination of the rich and famous. For its women's line, gingham-printed poplins with multi-colored stripes are made into knee-length skirts or into patchwork shirtwaist dresses in lemon yellow, turquoise and coral. Grandpa trousers and pleated pants for men come in stretch cavalry twill, gabardine lined with Oxford or linen that lend a casual air to one's wardrobe.

The Capri Collection offers navy-inspired pieces which, for women, come as skirts adorned with box pleats, loose button-front trousers and wraparound skirts in navy, ecru, white and red, and the requisite stripes. Men are presented with reefer jackets in Panama cloth or unlined microfibre blousons, as well as linen bermudas with drawstring waists paired with poplin seersucker shirts.

Havana evokes elegance with natural materials. In this collection, women walk a fine line between masculinity and femininity with military shirts and mandarin safari jackets. Cropped linen cigarette pants are combined with fluid chiffon tops. The men's collection makes use of leather, linen, cotton, silk and cashmere in honey, beige, chocolate and khaki. These are made into unstructured jackets and loose trousers, as well as comfortable shirts, some accented with cigar pockets.

Façonnable's Provence Collection for women makes use of warm hues and soft colors in leather, linen and cotton. Earthy shades of brown and ochre are matched with blue and pale pink in shirtwaist dresses enhanced by saddle stitching and patchwork.

Minimalist silhouettes best describe Façonnable's Japan Collection for women. Streamlined jackets with three-quarter sleeves and cigarette pants come in white, black, flesh and violet, while V-necked viscose tops are paired with figure molding tube skirts.

Façonnable is available only at Rustan's.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|---|---|
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| 350 g. | ground beef |
| 1 pc. | small carrot, diced |
| 1 tbsp. | brown sugar |
| 2 tbsp. | soy sauce |
| 1/3 tsp. | iodized salt (or 1/2 tsp. rock salt) |
| 1 tbsp. | DEL MONTE Red Cane Vinegar |
| 1 pc. | small green bell pepper, cut into strips |
| 1 tbsp. | cornstarch, dissolved in 2 tbsp. water |
| | dash of pepper |

Procedure:

Sauté garlic and ground beef until brown. Add 3/4 to 1 cup water and simmer until meat is tender. Add carrots, brown sugar, pepper, soy sauce, salt, pineapple syrup and DEL MONTE vinegar. Simmer until carrots are cooked. Add DEL MONTE Fresh Cut Pineapple Tidbits, bell pepper and dissolved cornstarch. Blend, then simmer for 5 to 8 minutes. Serve as rice topping.

Makes 6 servings.

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LIFESTYLE

Home

BOLLYWOOD LOOK. Indians want their fridge colorful

# Friendlier than ever

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

REMEMBER the friendly Electrolux man who used to knock on your door, ring on your bell and tap on your window, too, in his efforts to sell high-end appliances from washing machines to vacuum cleaners and water purifiers?

He's back but in a totally different setting. Rather than pound the streets, you can now find him these days within the cool confines of the country's leading malls and appliance stores. After gaining a reputation for quality through direct selling two decades ago, Electrolux appliances are now back and made more accessible through retail.

The brand now competes head-on with other names in nearly 150 stores all over the country except in Mindanao and Eastern Visayas. (Because Electrolux is hampered by constraints in manpower, consumers in these two areas will have to wait until next month before Electrolux is made available there.)

HANS Straberg, Electrolux CEO

Following its global strategy of acquiring famous names to gain a foothold in the local market, the Sweden-based company has also bought the White Westinghouse brand from the now-defunct Philacor.

Meanwhile, the Electrolux brand is confined to high-end refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, water heaters, cooking ranges, kitchen hoods, clothes dryers and, of course, washing machines. All products, including those under the White Westinghouse brand,

FRIENDLIER/ p.E3

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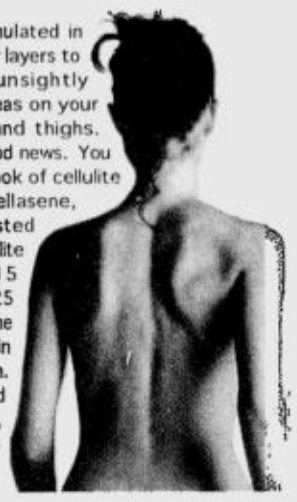

The naked truth!

Ask for Cellasene at Rustan's (Shangri-la, Cubao, Harrison Plaza), Mercury Drug and Watsons.
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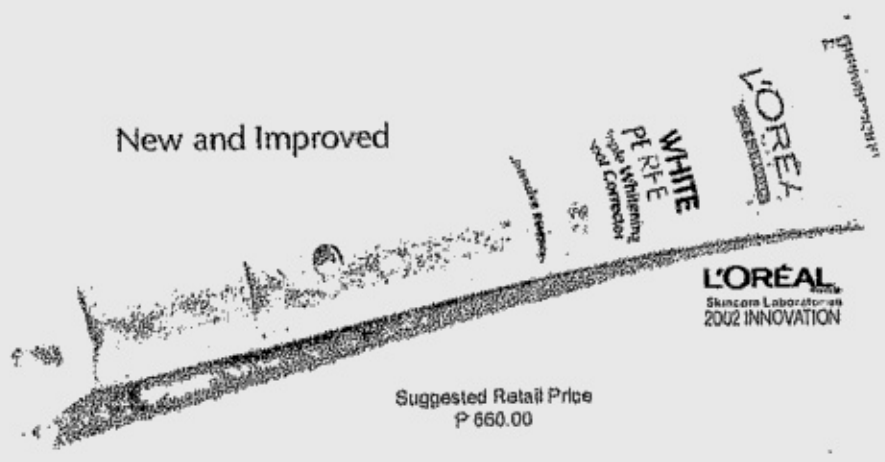


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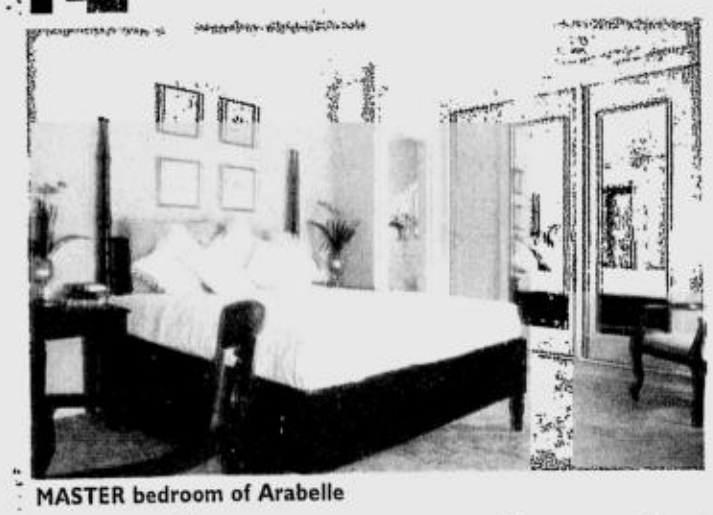
*In vitro testing. **Source: study under dermatological control conducted in Japan – 30 women – November 2001.


MASTER bedroom of Arabelle

ARABELLE'S dining area

A COZY corner of Arabelle's attic

# A dose of Old World charm

## Brittany Bay swings toward Victorian architecture

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THIRTY-FIVE hectares of sloping terrain and sprawling greenery that look toward the idyllic Laguna de Bay make up Brittany Bay.

Located in Sucat, Parañaque, Brittany Bay is envisioned to be an enclave with an Old World charm. Residences, offices, store and restaurants will feature Victorian architecture and details.

"We've more or less captured the San Francisco feel but using different materials that are adapted to our weather. Most houses in San Francisco are typically Victorian in character," said architect Peter Estanislao, planning head of Brittany Corp., which has other real estate projects in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Imus, Cavite; Alabang, and Antipolo City.

San Francisco grew and blossomed on the southern peninsula of a bay, producing beautiful and living works of art.

"Since it's near Laguna de Bay, Brittany Bay has been inspired by that concept. Through the Victorian style, we intend to make a difference in real estate, which is mainly focused on Mediterranean style of houses. The features all look the same," Estanislao said.

Features unique to Victorian homes are curves, bends and rolls of the carpentry and the different colors used. Brittany Bay's architecture is defined by porticos, flat canopy, front steps and eaves with simplified brackets.

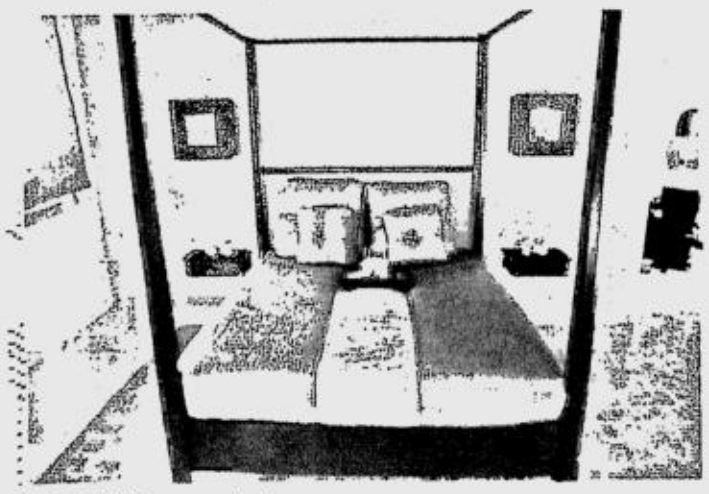
Most of the houses' roofs in San Francisco are made of asphalt shingles. They have a lot of torches and rely heavily on ornamentation. The walls are made of wood. At Brittany Bay, concrete has been used to simulate the pattern. Each house's automatic garage door looks like a wooden panel outside but is actually made of aluminum.

The development of the 6.4-hectare residential area, which will be fenced in, and the construction of the 15m-wide main roads and 12m and 10m-wide inner roads will be completed in two to three years.

A total of 90 single detached houses will be put up in Brittany Bay. "They'll all employ the wide lot concept, offering three façade options and three color schemes per model that will provide character to each home, which will be in 'move-in' condition," said Jövy Convento, marketing head of Brittany Corp.

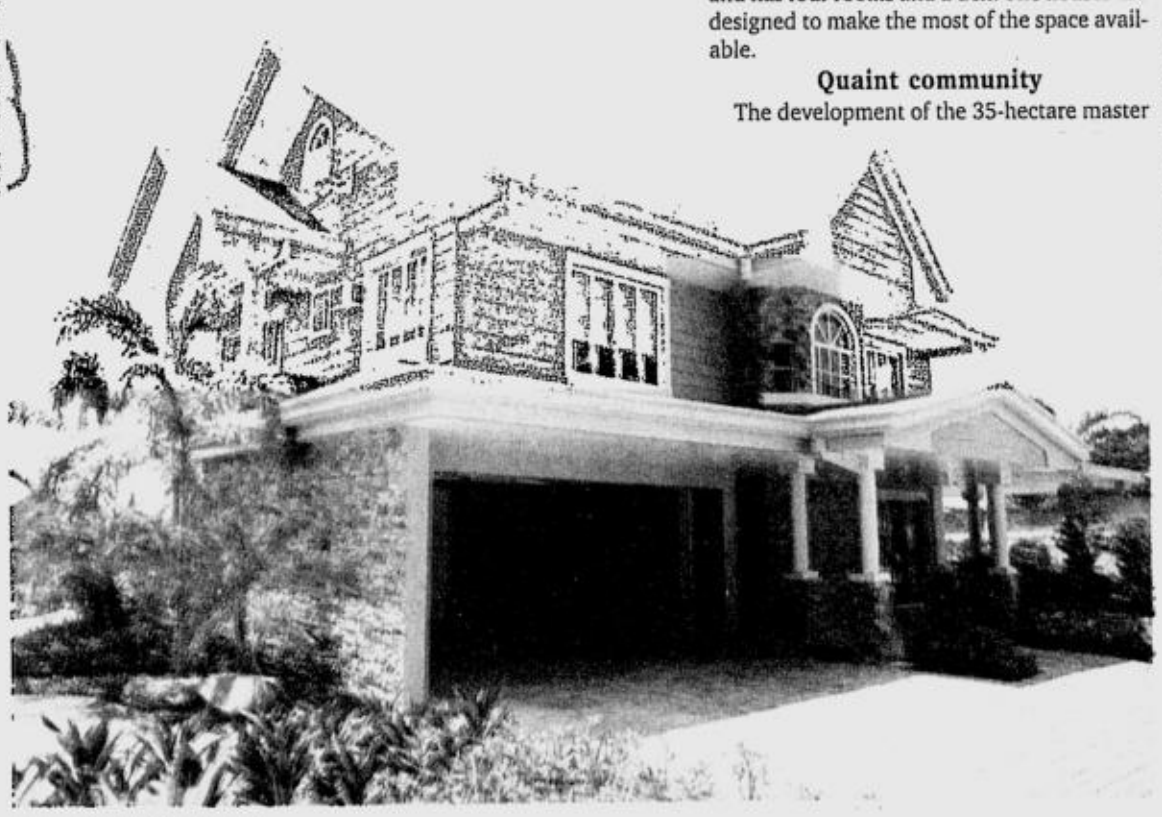
Two out of five display homes have been built in the area, both designed by Pinky Cruz. One called Arabelle is 155 sq. m. in floor area, while Elliane is 220 sq. m. Each room is about 15-20 sq. m. The other model houses have floor areas of 180 sq. m., 250 sq. m. and 300 sq. m.

According to Convento, the number of rooms will depend on the floor area and price. A house with a floor area of 155 sq. m. and three bedrooms costs P6 million, the lowest-priced at Brittany Bay. The highest-priced, P11 million, is about 300 sq. m. in floor area and has four rooms and a den. The houses are designed to make the most of the space available.


ELLIANE'S master bedroom

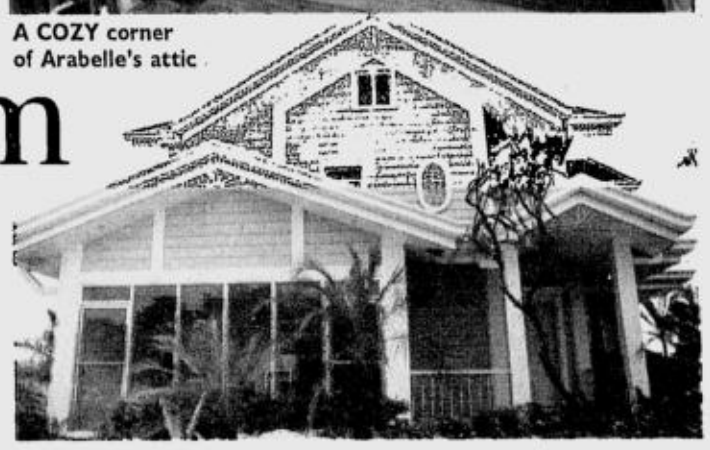
### Quaint community

The development of the 35-hectare master planned community of Brittany Bay began in February and will be completed in 10-15 years.

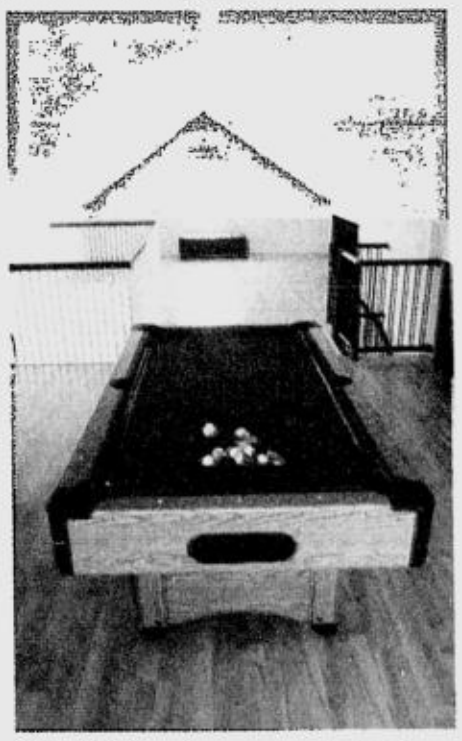

ELLIANE display house

A courtyard setting at the center of a commercial area will include offices, restaurants, few retail outlets and convenience store, which will be connected by pedestrian walks.

Brittany Bay's clubhouse will be made of glass so visitors can have a view of the Laguna de Bay. It will have a swimming pool, multipurpose hall, game room, basketball court, shower and locker rooms, playground, tea garden and lily pond.


ARABELLE model home

LIVING and dining rooms of Elliane


ELLIANE'S den becomes a game room

The second phase of the development will include condominiums with units costing P2-3 million each, a cluster of lower-priced condos, a driving range and mini-golf.

An underground cable of power lines has been put in place to optimize the view of Laguna de Bay.

"The idea behind the courtyard setting at the center of the commercial area and patio setting in between houses and townhouses is to create a leisurely and serene atmosphere while enjoying the outdoor," said Estanislao.

Brittany Bay is 10 meters away from the Sucat Interchange, 4.5 kms from Alabang and 17 kms from the Makati business district. It's near the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, Makati Medical Center and Parañaque Medical Center and to schools in Alabang (La Salle, Woodrose, Southridge, St. Benedict's College) via South Superhighway or Skyway, Makati (Assumption, Colegio de San Agustin, Don Bosco) via South Superhighway, and Quezon City (Ateneo, Miriam College, University of the Philippines) via C5.

"Accessibility to offices and schools, affordability and design and concept are the most important considerations in buying a house and lot. We require a down payment of 30 percent spread over six months while the 70 percent is payable in 20 years. Those who would pay the 30 percent can already move in once their new home is finished in four to six months," Convento said.

Brittany Bay homes are expected to add life and character to the city of Parañaque although their style and color may not be the trend in Filipino architecture at present.

*E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph*

# The wilderness called Entabeni

## A game reserve in South Africa is a biosphere showcase

**SEEING GREEN**

*Doris Gaskell Nuyda*

THE ENTABENI Game Reserve in South Africa is the wilderness that 60 young Asian students, aged 15 to 18—four of them Filipinos—will experience when they fly there this July. The trip is their prize for winning in an essay contest on environmental themes in their respective countries. Both the essay contest and the trip are sponsored by Cathay Pacific Airways, a commitment to the environment it has undertaken for the past five years.

Entabeni (meaning, "Place of the Mountain") is this year's destination after three years in Lapalala, and one (last year) in Rustenberg, all only some hours away from Johannesburg. Spreading through 1,000 hectares, Entabeni is situated in Limpopo province, in the northern extreme of the Unesco-proclaimed Waterberg Biosphere. It is a good showcase of unspoiled biodiversity, of the rich flora and fauna intermingling with the terrain.

The Asian students will have the opportunity to see first-hand the ravines and wooded hillsides that make the place a haven for a large variety of antelopes and other wild animals, including elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo and rhino. The place also features such spectacular sights as the "Hangklip" or Hanging Rock.

Dominating the camp area is the 2,000-ft escarpment that divides the Reserve into two. One part is a lower, warmer area with sand-veld vegetation, dense bush, plains and wetlands (said to be a bird-watcher's paradise).

The other part requires moving up to higher ground through Yellowwood Gorge, an area that has the unique distinction of having an entirely different ecosystem from the land below. Here, the road twists between cliffs, waterfalls and forests, until it reaches the top where one finds vast savannas and more gorges. Yellowwood Gorge, incidentally, is said to have been built by scores of local women, which should be a story in itself. It now stands as a monument to them.

### Waterberg biosphere

The existence of two ecosystems in one area is why Waterberg, of which Entabeni is a part, is called a biosphere. They are internationally recognized, through Unesco's Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB). In South Africa, there are four biosphere regions. To be recognized as such, a region must meet a minimum set of criteria and conditions before being admitted into the World's Network of Biosphere Reserves.

### Filipino contingent

To better understand the value of adhering to environmental practice (which, simply, are laws of nature), the Filipino students will go through an exciting 10 days (July 21-31) of wilderness experience.

They were selected out of hundreds of entries, not for their essays alone, which were excellent, but for their environmental involvement in school and their communities, and leadership qualities.

This year's batch are: Ana Marika Maglipon Francisco, 17, from Assumption Antipolo; Rodelyn Grace T. Miso, 18, Ateneo de Manila University; Nicole Therese de Castro, 17, University of the Philippines Diliman; and Erica Rosario, 16, Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial Regional Science High School in Dumaguete City.

### Potentials

From the information sheets given to us on this new wilderness site, we find that the areas around Entabeni are being developed into tourist destinations as well. And far from destroying the "wilderness" aspects of those areas, the structures coming up seem to blend with the terrain, and we see in them lessons that those involved in local ecotourism should take to heart.

For instance, here in the Philippines, the propensity of developers is to build high-rise or massive buildings even when they cover up the view. We see this in the Cavite portion of Tagaytay where the lake scene, which is the charm and soul of Taal, is all but screened out. What you find instead is a host of inns and hotels and restaurants that do have a place in a tourist spot but would give better service if located more strategically. The same holds true in Baguio, whose rolling terrain calls for structures that would 'flow' with the slopes rather than stick out like ugly fingers.

In Entabeni and its surroundings, there are several picturesque lodges and inns that make the most of tribal design and tradition. The culture of the people in those places is respected and upheld, resulting in tourist havens that adhere to their natural ambience. Modern facilities combine with much that reflects tribal culture and the effect is stunning. Houses are built with thatched roofs or tents with all the amenities are set up. The tent idea is especially interesting because it may be possible to use this housing scheme, adjusted to suit local conditions, for our congested areas, and at a much lower cost. What they show collectively is that development and the environment can come together in beautiful harmony. Hopefully, the Filipino delegates to Entabeni would look into this when they visit there next month,

# Friendlier than ever

From page E1

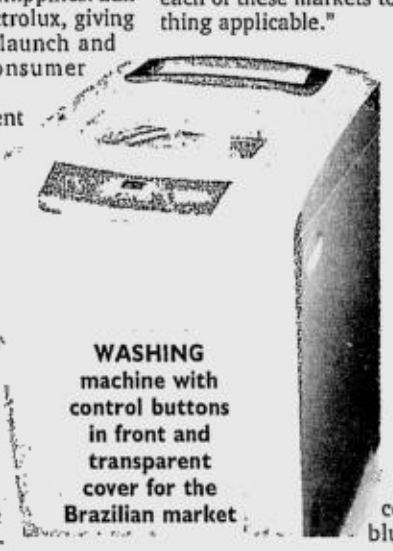
are manufactured in the company's plants in Sweden, Italy, Poland, Thailand and Australia, among others.

"Electrolux has never left the Philippines," says Vichai Lorattawout, newly appointed president of Electrolux Philippines. "The company has merely focused its attention on industrial users."

### Spin-off

Lux, a spin-off company, had been created in the early '90s to take care of Electrolux's direct-selling activities in the Philippines. Lux eventually cut its ties with Electrolux, giving the latter more flexibility to launch and market its own brand of consumer durables.

To give us an idea of the extent of its operations, Electrolux recently invited several journalists from Asia to its headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden. Our group later flew to Venice, Italy, several hours' drive away from two of its major plants located in the towns of Susegana and Porcia.



**WASHING machine with control buttons in front and transparent cover for the Brazilian market**

From its humble beginnings 90 years ago, the company now claims to be the world's largest manufacturer of refrigerators, freezers, vacuum cleaners and cooking ranges. It's also said to be one of the top producers of washing machines, dryers and dishwashers.

Its net sales in consumer durables reportedly totaled $1.5 billion last year. Manned by 14,000 team members, its 15 factories are said to have produced six million products last year. Aside from its direct presence in 22 countries, Electrolux distributes its products to over 160 countries.

The sprawling Susegana plant, for instance, produced close to 1,400,000 refrigerators last year. This number was broken down to 79 basic models and 668 variants in 30 different brands. During the same year, the equally impressive plant in Porcia churned out more than two million units of washing machines and dryers.

Husqvarna, Frigidaire Zanussi, AEG, Kelvinator, Refripar, Email and, of course, White Westinghouse are among the famous brands Electrolux has acquired through the decades.

"A product's country of origin is no longer a major factor," says Vichai. "At the end of the day, what consumers are really after is quality." Because of the efforts Electrolux puts on standardizing its technology, the quality of its products is said to be consistent regardless of where they're made.

### Inroads

Aside from being one of the leading names in Europe, Electrolux and its family of brands have also made considerable inroads in Brazil, Australia, India and China. In three years, for instance, Electrolux has now become the second biggest manufacturer of refrigerators in India, with a 26-percent market share. It has acquired Kelvinator to appeal to the mass market.

Thanks to Electrolux's acquisition of Refripar in 1996, it has quickly become the second largest producer of washing machines and refrigerators in Brazil. The country has also become a regional hub for developing Latin markets.

With its renewed marketing efforts in the region, the company is poised to become a major player in the lucrative Asian market in less than three years.

The Chinese market's positive response to its products—which is said to have doubled in size every year for the past three years—is giving executives in Stockholm led by CEO Hans Straberg reason to smile these days. With a huge market of 1.3 billion people, who wouldn't?

Can Electrolux duplicate these achievements in the Philippines as well? "Yes," says a confident Vichai. "Electrolux is still popular, while White Westinghouse used to be the market leader. All we need is to re-establish its [White Westinghouse's] presence to be able to bring it back to its former position."

Before we zero in on the peculiarities of the Philippine market ***(see related story)***, it's worth noting the roots of Electrolux's success in various markets. It's no different from other companies when it claims to make an effort to understand consumers' needs.

"We try do it only better," says Andrew Bentley, president of Electrolux Home Products International. "For one, we have the advantage of dealing with a broad range of markets. We try to learn from our experiences in each of these markets to come up with something applicable."

### Serious research

Electrolux takes its market research seriously to come up with an innovative product and design. The headquarters' adjoining pavilions featuring products that have done well in major markets such as Brazil, Australia, China and India illustrate this.

While Indians, for instance, like their refrigerators in bold colors—from electric blue to shocking scarlet—Chinese prefer theirs with removable front panels. Yes, just like the removable casings of your favorite Nokia cellphones. The reasons are both cultural as well as reflections of the times.

**SEMBLANCE OF ORDER. Brazilians go for canned cola holders**

Today's Indians, according to market research, are still partial to vivid colors and gold-trimmed edges, an extension perhaps of their fondness for eye-catching fabrics laced with metallic trimmings.

Call it stereotypical, but even Kelvinator's TV ad in India is patterned after a Bollywood musical. In Brazil, meanwhile, the refrigerator is likened to a hot Brazilian lover that women swoon over. One TV ad showed a woman pulling a can of soda strapped around a man's gorgeous abs. Naughty, naughty.

In China where urban dwellers usually live in cramped apartments, it's not unusual for the refrigerator to end up in the living room or bedroom. Thus, the typical Chinese treats his refrigerator like furniture—preferring one with a silent motor and changeable look depending on his mood and the season. The market's legendary and unique sense of aesthetics has probably been factored in as well.

"Of course," clarifies Bo Kylin, Electrolux's VP for product marketing, "every feature has a specific purpose. We always make it a point to listen and ask the consumer before we come up with an innovative or stylish model."

Many Brazilians, for example, prefer white refrigerators.

### Twists

Designers, however, have designed one with several twists: concave front panels with attractive and sturdy-looking door handles. How come? These features enable units to stand out among competing brands on the shop floor.

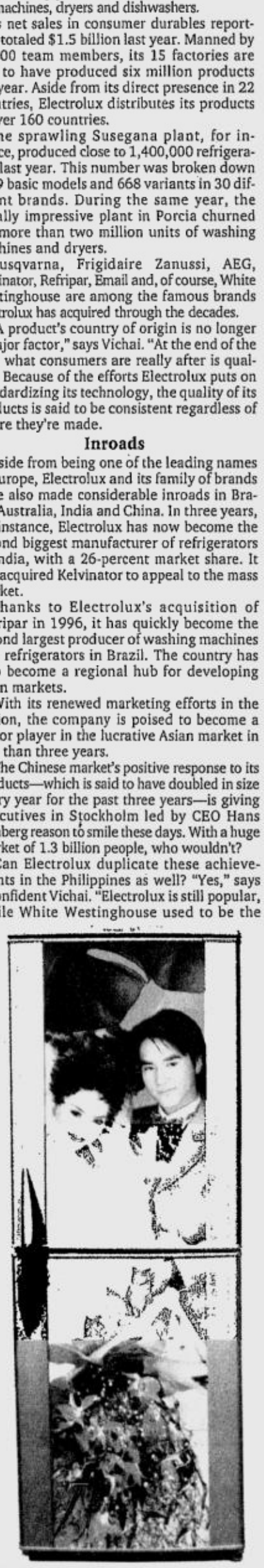
Brazilians, like Filipinos, consume more than their share of softdrinks because of Brazil's tropical weather. To put a semblance of order in their refrigerators, designers devised a series of can holders exclusive to the Brazilian market.

"It's probably not the best solution," says Christian Klingspor, Electrolux's SVP for design. "But it's a practical if emotional solution to a real need."

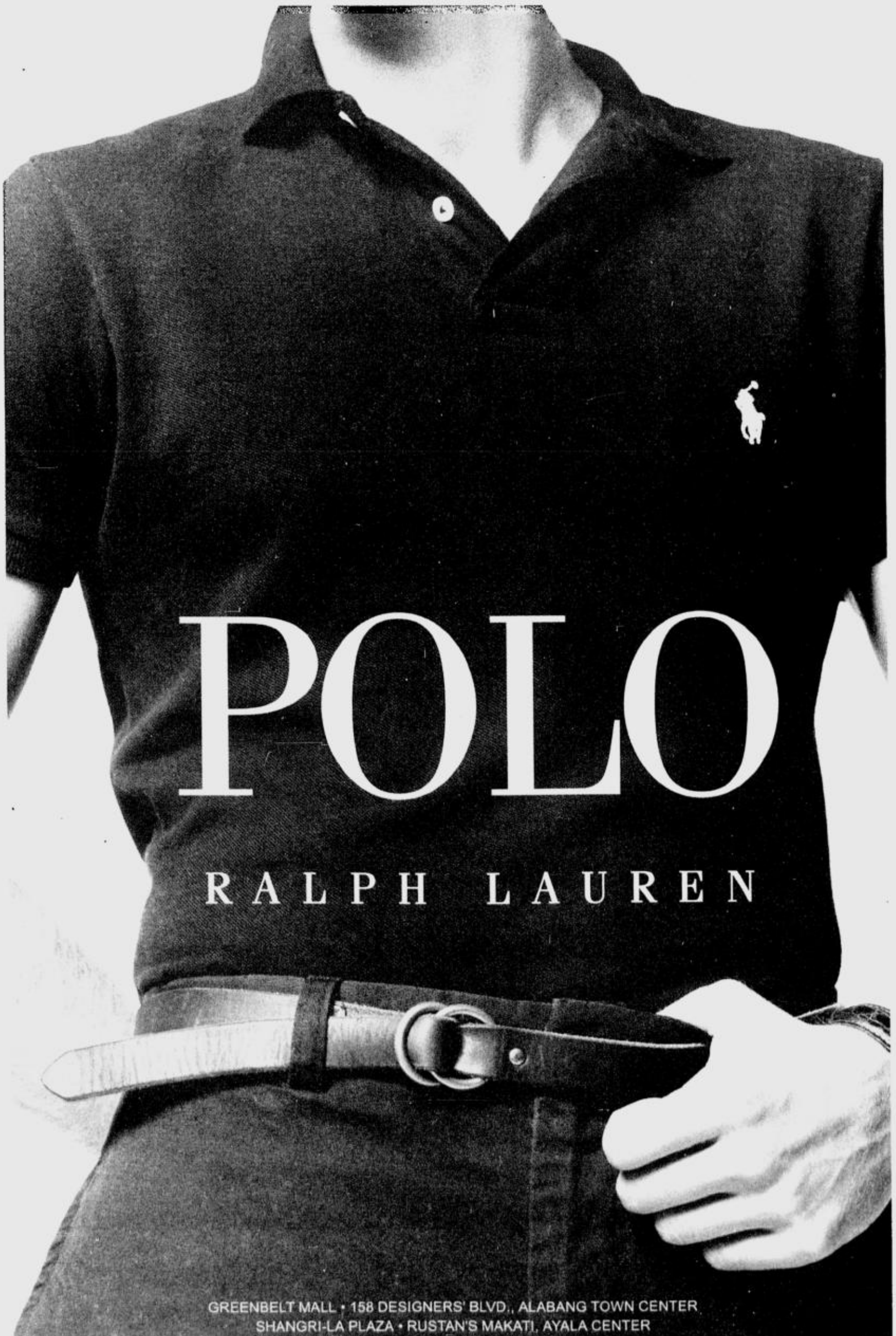
Electrolux also aims to build stronger partnerships with its trade customers. Its recent partnership week in Sweden was two-pronged, familiarizing both the media and major retailers with its operations.

FRIENDLIER/ p.E4

**ANDREW Bentley, president, Electrolux Home Products International**



**LIKE A CELL PHONE. A sample of the changeable panels for Electrolux's Chinese market**



# Defining the Pinoy penchant

DESPITE their shared fondness for color and pageantry, Filipinos and Indians differ when it comes to refrigerators. Whereas some Indians go for shocking colors with gold-trimmed edges, most Filipinos still like their refrigerators white.

"Based on our market research," says Vichai Lorattawout, president of Electrolux Philippines, "Filipinos prefer white more than any other shade since it goes well with whatever the color of their furniture."

Electrolux isn't about to alter Filipino tastes as it begins to reintroduce its high-end line of appliances. Nor will it drop White Westinghouse any time soon. The Swedish company has bought the leading refrigerator brand from Philacor precisely to help it penetrate and make an impact in the local market.

"Unlike, say, the Chinese or Indians," adds Vichai, "Filipinos are brand-conscious. Now we have two strong brands to offer them."

Filipinos, he concedes, regard Electrolux as an expensive brand. This impression could work both ways. The Pinoy penchant for status symbols could boost the brand's sales as consumers try to keep up with one another. Electrolux's pricey reputation, however, could stop equally price-conscious Filipinos from examining the true merits of a certain product.

**VICHAI Lorattawout, president of Electrolux Philippines**

"Electrolux offers good value for money. Consumers pay a little more for the chance of using a durable product with extra features."

That's why Electrolux offers more affordable options through White Westinghouse refrigerators, freezers and washing machines.

Like most Asians, Filipinos are by nature close-knit. This trait, however, goes beyond family and friends to include suppliers or *suki*—a Filipino word that has probably no direct translation in other languages. This facet has also surfaced in Electrolux's market study.

"There's no such thing in Sweden," says Vichai. "Once a customer buys a product, that's usually the end of it. Filipinos are different. They usually transact business with people they personally know and trust. That's why we treat our retailers as our partners."

In its efforts to further nurture long-term relationships with its customers, Electrolux has established three service centers of its own on top of its 46 authorized service centers all over the country.

Since Electrolux wants to become the market leader in the next three years, Vichai considers every brand available locally as a competitor. "There are many players in the market today, but I don't see any dominant player."

The company's best efforts notwithstanding, Vichai is still unsure how the public would respond to their products. "We're still learning from our consumers," he says. "We have yet to come up with features that are uniquely suited to the needs of Filipinos."

As part of its global campaign, Electrolux will introduce a new refrigerator in September that Vichai says is sure to become the "talk of the town." Of course, it will have its debut not in India but in the Philippines.

***Alex Y. Vergara***

# Friendlier . . .

From page E3

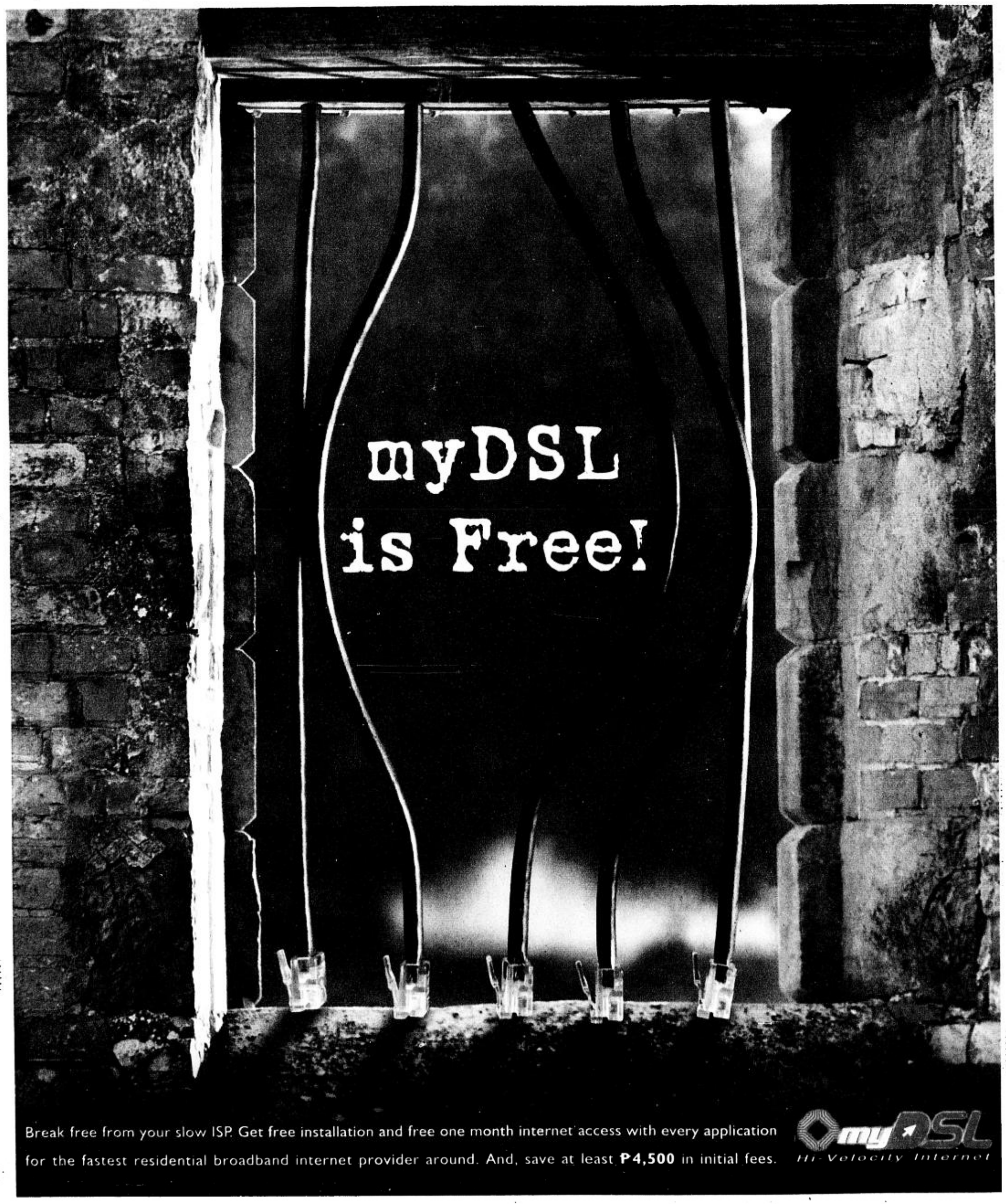
"Unlike other people," says Vichai. "Filipinos tend to develop long-term relationships with retailers. This is something that isn't so evident in other countries, even in Asia. That's why we also take good care of our retailers."

Finally, the company credits a consistent brand strategy as another important factor to its success. This includes consolidating its brand portfolio to fewer, stronger brands. Does this mean that White Westinghouse would soon go the way of its former mother company?

"Electrolux is positioned as an aspirational brand in some markets," says Bentley. "White Westinghouse has a strong brand equity which we hope would eventually create greater awareness for Electrolux. It [White Westinghouse] would stay in the Philippines, but we're not developing it into a global brand."

The friendly Electrolux man—or woman—now offers more options based on consumers' lifestyles and pocketbooks as well.

*E-mail the author: avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

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# National Irrigation Administration

**WHAT'S INSIDE:**

NIA to complete P82.5B irrigation projects...**Page C4**
Mal-Mar to accelarate Mindanao dev't... **Page C5**
Key role of irrigators' associations cited... **Page C8**

## Preparing for El Niño

Where are the monsoon rains that June normally brings? Weather forecasters are cautioning that the delayed onset of the rainy season may be an indication that El Niño is back!

Occurring once every four to seven years, this weather phenomenon, which causes prolonged droughts in some parts of the world even as it dumps torrential downpours in other areas, has wrought havoc on global agriculture. The 1997-98 El Niño was particularly destructive to the Philippine economy.

This time, the National Irrigation Administration is prepared to combat the adverse effects of El Niño.

**See story on page C7**

### A TURNAROUND IN 2001, AN EVEN BETTER YEAR FOR 2002

# NIA on growth track to face new challenges

If 2001 was a good year for the National Irrigation Administration, 2002 promises to be even better.

The Macapagal-Arroyo administration has set aside a total of P9.9 billion for NIA's capital outlay, which includes NIA's regular budget of P7.12 billion, last year's carry-over of P954 million and P1.83 billion coming from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for irrigation projects.

This year, NIA, out of the P7.12 billion regular budget, has programmed to open for irrigation 22,674 hectares of new agricultural lands and rehabilitate another 89,602 hectares in existing systems—to directly benefit about 110,000 farmers all over the country.

More than half of the targeted farmlands will be irrigated by the major projects that are now being placed on stream, namely the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation and Lower Agusan Development projects in Mindanao and the Pampanga Delta Development and Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power projects in Luzon.

These targets also exclude the irrigation of 13,811 hectares of new farmlands and rehabilitation of another 5,783 hectares covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program which will be funded by the P1.83-billion contribution from the Department of Agrarian Reform.

**PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is briefed by NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras on World Bank-funded irrigation projects under the Agrarian Reform Community Development Program at the inaugural of a Leyte Project. Looking on are Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Department of Agrarian Hernani Braganza and Energy Secretary Vince Perez.**

### Growth Catalyst

The growing recognition of irrigation as a catalyst of agricultural modernization and growth has drawn financial and other necessary support behind the program, said NIA chairman and Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor. Last year, NIA had a total budget at least P7 billion.

"Increasingly, NIA's role has evolved from a mere provider of irrigation infrastructure and services to one that is an effective and active agent of national economic development," Montemayor added.

In line with that new role, NIA has actively sought the partnership of the civil society organizations and the private sector in financing, planning and implementing small-scale irrigation projects, particularly in economically depressed areas. "One such partnership," according to NIA administrator Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras, "is with the Mindanao Business Council wherein we jointly implement shallow tube-well projects in predominantly Muslim communities."

With more irrigated farmlands, the agriculture and fisheries sector posted last year a robust 3.9 percent growth which, in turn, pushed the country's overall economic growth by an unexpected 3.4 percent.

Indeed, NIA turned in unexpected results by the end of 2001.

### Historical Turnaround

It is certainly a historical coincidence that NIA has posted its turnaround year in the first year in office of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose father former President Diosdado Macapagal is known as "The Father of Modern Irrigation." It was during the President's father's time on June 22, 1963 that Republic Act No. 3601 created NIA and charged it with the mandate to bring about an "Irri-

**NIA/ F2**

## *Messages*

**MALACAÑAN PALACE**
**MANILA**

***"...agricultural and rural development is central to sustainable poverty alleviation"***

*I extend my cordial greetings to the men and women of the National Irrigation Administration on the celebration of NIA's 39th anniversary.*

*In developing countries like the Philippines, agricultural and rural development is central not just to economic growth and sufficient food supply but to sustainable poverty alleviation. Thus, when I assumed office last year, I placed agricultural development on top of the government's economic agenda. I firmly believe that irrigation is at the bottom of agricultural modernization and growth.*

*As you celebrate this occasion, the challenge is to build on our gains that we may reform better. With the concrete directions and firm targets you are given, with the incentives for good performance, and with the realization that you are capable of achieving more. I have no doubt that you will live up to expectations. I encourage each one of you to strive harder: Giving our best to the acceleration of agricultural development food sufficiency, poverty alleviation and economic growth is the best service we can render our people.*

*May this gathering serve to renew your commitment to the important task that lies ahead of you.*

*More power and Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

*GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO*

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

*I extend my warmest felicitations to the officials and employees of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on the occasion of your 39th Anniversary celebration.*

*We at the Department of Agriculture commend the agency's impressive achievement last year in terms of new areas irrigated and systems rehabilitated, thus contributing to the sustained growth of the agriculture and fisheries sector.*

*This year, the agency will undertake various projects that will irrigate 39,650 hectares in new areas and rehabilitate 99,785 hectares. These areas are expected to produce an incremental yield of 276,400 metric tons of palay directly benefiting 109,860 farmers and their families.*

*All this will come into fruition using a total capital outlay of P9.9 B, of which P7.12 B will come from the NIA's regular 2002 budget, P954 million from its carry-over 2001 budget, and P1.83 B from the Department of Agrarian Reform's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.*

*From its 2002 budget, NIA targets to irrigate 22,674 hectares of new areas and rehabilitate 89,602 hectares. The bulk of new areas will come from major initiatives like the Pampanga Delta Development Project (5,000), Casecnan Multi-Purpose Irrigation and Power Project (2,000 hectares), Lower Agusan Development Project, (2,000 hectares) and Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (1,400 hectares).*

*Part of the total areas to be irrigated and rehabilitated will come from the continued implementation of the Balikatan Sagip Patubig Program – a joint counterparting scheme with the DA, local government units and irrigators' associations to construct and rehabilitate communal systems nationwide. Under the program, some 6,029 hectares in new areas will be irrigated and 23,343 hectares will be rehabilitated.*

*Secondly, from its carry over budget in 2001. NIA will irrigate 3,165 hectares and rehabilitate 4,400 hectares. Finally, under the DAR-CARP irrigation NIA will irrigate 13,811 hectares and rehabilitate 5,783 hectares.*

*These targets and indeed enormous and challenging, but I am confident the hardworking men and women of NIA will be able to deliver. I thus enjoin all of you to remain focused and committed to successfully attain your goals, all aimed at increasing the productivity and incomes of Filipino farmers.*

*Congratulation and more power!*

*LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR*
*Secretary*

## Improved services to farmers urged

*"MAGSAMA-SAMA tayo sa ikauunlad ng NIA at ikagaganda ng serbisyo sa magsasaka* (Let us work in concert to enhance NIA services for the sake of our farmers) as we vigorously pursue NIA's goals and objectives this year."

Thus declared National Irrigation Administration chief Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras in his congratulatory message and exhortation to the men and women of NIA whom he cited for having demonstrated a strong sense of duty and reliability even when the agency was facing political, administrative and financial difficulties.

"Let us do our best to optimize the benefits our farmers and workers may derive from NIA ser-

**IMPROVED/ F2**

## Agency to honor outstanding workers at awards rites today

PLAQUES of appreciation and corresponding cash prizes will be awarded to the outstanding employees of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) for the calendar year 2001 in the awards program that will highlight the celebration of NIA's 39th anniversary today.

An 8 a.m. Mass at the NIA chapel will kick off the whole-day affair, followed by a Guests' Forum at the NIA convention hall under the auspices of the Office of the Administrator from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor of the Department of Agriculture, assisted by NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras, will confer the awards to the agency's outstanding employees in the afternoon ceremony. This year's honorees will be led by top awardee Regional Irrigation Manager Bienvenido C. Pedregosa of Region XI as Hall of Famer of the Year.

The other awardees include Antonio A. Ramos of the MARIIS as Operations Manager of the Year, Neldin S. Oyod of the MMIP as Project Manager of the Year, Librado V. Liban, Jr. of Region III as Regional

**AGENCY/ F7**

## NIA Milestones

**June 22, 1963**
President Diosdado Macapagal signed Republic Act No. 3601 creating the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), with a mandate to bring about an "Irrigation Age" in the Philippines within 10 to 20 years from that date.

**March 17, 1964**
The NIA Board of Directors held its first meeting. At this time, the total service area of the irrigation system was 541,000 hectares.

**August 13, 1964**
Executive Order No. 91 (amended by EO No. 98 dated September 15,1964) was issued to implement RA No. 3601.

**1968**
The Philippines attained self-sufficiency in rice for the first time after 21 years of dependence on foreign purchases. The aggregate irrigated area accounted for only 39.6% of the bumper crop of 91.2 million cavans.

**January 18, 1969**
The Upper Pampanga River Project (UPRP) in Nueva Ecija was approved, the first multipurpose water resources development undertaking of the NIA.

**September 23, 1972**
All irrigation activities were integrated under the NIA with the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 1.

**September 7, 1974**
Pantabangan Dam was inaugurated.

**1977**
The Philippine rice economy made a dramatic turnaround with the production of a palay surplus and the exportation of 15,000 metric tons to Indonesia.

**1979**
The participatory approach was launched as a "learning laboratory" in each of the 12 administrative regions. In this approach, farmer-beneficiaries of irrigation projects were involved in all the phases of development from planning through construction to operation and maintenance.

**October 28,1982**
Magat Dam was inaugurated and the NIA fulfilled its mandate of bringing about an "Irrigation Age" in the Philippines. It was designed to irrigate 102,000 hectares and generate 360 megawatts of hydroelectric power.

**April 28,1988**
President Corazon C. Aquino signed Proclamation No. 256 declaring the third week of June 1988 and every year thereafter as "Irrigation Week" to enable the people to appreciate the vital role of irrigation in the total development efforts of the national government.

**April 24, 1989**
The Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) approved the initial budget for the implementation of CARP's Irrigation Component. This involved the generation of 213,000 hectares new areas and the rehabilitation of 140,000 hectares in existing systems. Programmed for 10 years, it had a total funding requirement of over P10 billion.

**September 16, 1991**
Executive Order No. 22 was signed transferring the NIA to the Office of the President.

**1992**
The NIA completed three Asian Development Bank-assisted projects, namely, the Second Laguna de Bay Irrigation Project; the Davao del Norte Irrigation Project III; and the ALIP River Irrigation Project.

**October 14,1972**
Administrative Order No. 17 was issued attaching the NIA to the Department of Agriculture. RA No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, mandated the devolution of locally funded irrigation projects to the local government units.

**June 1997**
The First National Congress of the National Confederation of Irrigators Association (NCIA) was conducted at the UP Alumni Center in Diliman, Quezon City

**December 22,1997**
RA No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) was enacted.

**1999**
Balikatan Sagip Patubig Program (BSPP) was launched by the Department of Agriculture. BSPP is a counterparting scheme among DA/NIA, LGU and IA for the rehabilitation of communal irrigation systems.

**2000**
The NIA completed the Visayas Communal Irrigation and Participatory Project. The project was designed to irrigate 10,400 hectares of farmlands benefiting some 11,000 farmer-beneficiaries in 13 provinces of Regions 6, 7 and 8.

# NIA returns to growth track as it braces for new challenges

From page F1

gation Age" in the Philippines within 10 to 20 years.

A number of dams and weirs were inaugurated and a network of irrigation canals and tunnels built, with as many as 25,000 hectares being irrigated per year at the peak of NIA's infrastructure build-up in the '70s.

But the dramatic expansion could not be sustained with limited capital funds.

NIA had been incurring heavy losses since 1991.

In 1999 alone, NIA reported a net loss of P514 million and in 2000, another P648 million. By the end of 2000, NIA had over P100 million in unpaid salaries and contributions to the Government Service Insurance System, Philhealth and other employee benefits.

"The year 2001 was extremely eventful and challenging," Paras said. NIA's leadership changed hands three times during the first half of the year.

At the same time, the agency was going through a severe financial crisis, brought about mainly by the sudden politically motivated but financially disastrous decision to stop the collection of irrigation services fees (ISF), with the issuance of administrative order No. 17 in 1998. Until then, farmers enjoying irrigation services had been paying the ISF since 1975.

"Accordingly, this predicament had telling effects on the morale of the employees and the agency's capability to deliver its services to the public," Paras said.

### Biting the Bullet

The new management bit the bullet and resumed the collection of the ISF. "It was a politically difficult task," Paras said. "We conducted consultation conferences with various farmer and civil society organizations on the need to restore the ISF. We emphasized that ISF collections are NIA's only source of funds for the maintenance and operation of its irrigation facilities, which have already been deteriorating due to insufficient funds," he said.

The importance of the fee was not difficult to understand.

"No less than the farmers themselves will benefit from the restoration of the ISF as this will enable NIA to effectively operate and maintain irrigation facilities," Paras said. The ISF was eventually restored.

Restoring the ISF was one thing, efficiently collecting it was another. An earlier study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency reveals that NIA needs to push its ISF collection efficiency to at least 75 percent to break even.

From 1991 to 1997, the ISF collection efficiency was only 46 percent. In 1998-99, this even dropped to 38percent and in 2000, it improved slightly to 46percent. To date, NIA has over P5 billion in uncollected ISF.

The newly installed NIA management mounted a massive ISF collection drive, thereby pushing its collection efficiency to 60 percent by end-2001. Total ISF collection amounted to P474.5 million, up by 20 percent from the P292.2 million collected in 2000. ISF collections accounted for 36 percent of NIA's total revenue for the year.

"We are still below our break-even rate but this represents a huge improvement over the past performance," Paras said. "We stressed that the price for our inability to collect are the salaries and benefits of our employees, NIA's viability and services to the farmers," Paras explained.

### Road to Viability

It will still take a couple of years, a great deal of effort and a host of structural reforms before NIA becomes financially viable. "But we will work harder to make NIA financially stronger. We will exert every effort to expand the sources of revenue and optimize collections," Paras said.

The ISF will continue to be its main source of funds. If it hits the target efficiency of 75 percent, it would be able to raise at least P900 million a year. "To enable us to increase our collections, we will launch projects that will help the farmers increase their production, among them is the Integrated Farm Support Project," Paras explained.

Furthermore, NIA is focusing on the use of its equipment to raise another P212 million a year from equipment rentals.

"We redirected the efforts of our Equipment Management Department to substantially increase our revenues from equipment rentals and optimize the maintenance and operation of our equipment to ensure better service and longer life," Paras said.

NIA has 10,416 units of heavy, light and transport equipment to support its operation and project implementation.

Other sources of revenues are communal irrigation projects equity, management service fees, proceeds from sale of idle assets and the share of NIA in electricity sales from NIA-owned dams. Amounting to P662 million last year, up 14 percent from the P580 million it generated in 2000, this accounts for almost 50 percent of the agency's annual revenue.

In 2001, NIA posted a modest net operating income of P63 million (before non-cash expenses like depreciation and provision for bad debts).

Revenues rose by 15 percent from P1.15 billion to P1.32 billion while expenditures dropped by P12 million. Its absorptive capacity—that is the agency's ability to utilize funds during the year—improved by 15 percentage points, from 70 percent to 85 percent.

"We will continue to enhance our absorptive capacity to enable us to substantially improve the progress of our ongoing projects and deliver more areas for irrigation. We will strive to institute effective feedback and action mechanism on the implementation of these projects especially those that are delayed by more than 10 percent," Paras said.

NIA was able to irrigate 21,000 hectares of new farmlands, close to what it used to deliver during its heydays in the 1970s. It also rehabilitated over 148,000 hectares, double its target for the year, bringing the total area of irrigated land to over one million hectares. Consequently crop intensity rose to 142 percent, bringing in roughly 4.08 million metric tons of *palay* production from farmlands irrigated by NIA facilities.

### Renewed Commitment

Employee morale rose as long-delayed projects like the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project in Cotabato and Maguindanao were brought back on stream, finally inaugurated last September by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo herself.

"Before, NIAns saw their accomplishments in terms of dams completed, kilometers of canals constructed and hectares irrigated or rehabilitated," Paras said. "Now, as a fully integrated member of the Department of Agriculture family, they see them in terms of farmers benefited, increase in rice production and greater food security, rise in farm employment, substantial improvement in farmers' income and growth of the agricultural communities. Their role has become more important and relevant, and this has, accordingly, given NIA's men and women greater inspiration and motivation," he said.

With renewed pride, newfound resolve and resurgent commitment, NIA hopes to restore the heyday of the '70s as it enter its 40th year.


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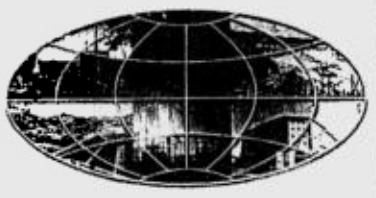

China Electric Power Technology Import & Export Corporation, (CETIC in abbreviation) is a large scale state-owned corporation and holding limited liability subsidiary of State Power Corporation China.

CETIC, abiding by ISO9000 quality assurance system and one of the international contractors listed among the world's top 225 international contractors in "Engineering News-Records" of the United States, actively takes international projects contracting, import & export trade and industry investment as its three main businesses.

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# Improved services to farmers urged

From page F1

vices," Paras said, adding that "we are doing everything possible to substantially increase our absorptive capacity."

"We expect to irrigate more farmlands even with a limited budget by resorting to more labor-intensive and cost-efficient methods," the NIA administrator declared.

He added that "we are prioritizing the implementation of small irrigation projects in economically depressed areas."

"We are actively seeking the partnership of civic organizations and the private sector in financing, planning and implementing small-scale irrigation projects" he said.

Paras thanked Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor "for having provided valuable support and policy directions that enabled NIA to deliver the services our farmers need."

The NIA official also expressed appreciation and gratitude to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for recognizing the importance of irrigation in the country's economic development and, accordingly, providing her full support to NIA's sustainable irrigation development programs.

Paras quoted President Arroyo as saying that "real economic development can only be achieved and sustained through accelerated agricultural and rural development," and that "the key to such agricultural development is irrigation."


***Greetings to the National Irrigation Administration on its 39th Anniversary!***

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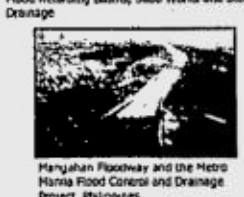

Manggahan Floodway and the Metro Manila Flood Control and Drainage Project, Philippines

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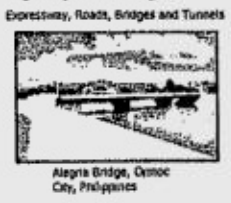

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Bio-technological Development

# NIA plays vital role in agrarian reform program of gov't

As one of the implementing agencies that will give the necessary support for the success of CARP, NIA is tasked to undertake irrigation infrastructures as one of the program's main support services components. NIA has proven to be equal to the task and has been in step with its mandate to provide irrigation to the country's mostly agricultural lands.

As of March 31, NIA has exceeded the ten-year timeframe for the implementation of Phase 1 of its irrigation component with 299 projects out of 301 already completed, irrigating 83,868 hectares of land out of the target of 94,615 hectares, while 2 projects are still ongoing. Some 46,500 farmers are now enjoying the fruits of this project.

NIA's Irrigation Component Phase 1 was programmed for implementation over a ten-year period (1989-1998) with an allotted cost of P4.0 billion to irrigate about 94,615 hectares of arable lands benefiting some 46,891 farmers.

Component Phase 2 of the irrigation project was extended until year 2002 with the enactment of RA 8532 which provided an augmentation fund of P8.5 billion targeting a coverage area of 106, 801 hectares all over the country.

Under the Phase 2 component that has an overall target of 141 projects covering some 25,310 hectares of land with an estimated cost of P1.404 billion, 34 projects have so far been completed. 2,555 hectares, 1148 of which are new irrigation cites and 1407 rehabilitated cites. In various stages of development are 107 projects with a cost of P1.29 Billion covering 22,755 hectares.

### Giving Farmers the Land They Till

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) or Republic Act (RA) 6657 enacted by Congress and signed into law during President Corazon C. Aquino's tenure was a landmark legislation which sought to emancipate the country's unsung heroes (the farmers "who till our lands and produce the food we place on our table") from poverty and give them the dignity they richly deserve.

Broadly, the program is adopted from the fundamental principle of equitable distribution of all agricultural lands and the farmers' right to singly or collectively own the land they till and to receive a just share of the fruits therefrom.

Its main objective is built around improving the country's land tenure system and the socio-economic state of the farmer beneficiaries by providing them with the necessary support services. Ultimately, this will lead to increased agricultural productivity, thus, uplifting the standard of living of the farmers.

### Foreign Assisted Projects

The NIA is also the implementing agency for at least three foreign assisted projects under the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project. Projects 1 and 2 being funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), formerly Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) will be implemented by NIA through the CARP-IC.

NIA will undertake a two-pronged approach to maximize the benefit of the program by setting institutional as well as the infrastructure development within the targeted municipalities. Farmers will be formed into cooperatives to build a viable and self-sustaining community and this will be complemented with the construction of irrigation drainage and post harvest facilities to boost agricultural production. Project 1 with a cost of P1.193 billion was started in 1996 and is expected to be finished this year. Project 2, on the other hand, was started in 2000 and expected to be finished in 2007, with a cost of P3.472 billion.

A third project costing P1.55 billion funded by the World Bank will benefit Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs). In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DA), NIA will implement the irrigation infrastructure component of 100 ARCs in 12 provinces identified by the DA with the aim of enhancing farm productivity and income improvement in the countryside.

### Catalyst of Change

Agrarian experts often say that the success of the CARP, envisioning a productive and enriched agricultural sector, will lie squarely on the support services that the government will provide. For a farmer will surely flounder if he is merely given the land without being provided the proper tools to till and plant.

With the NIA staunchly backing the implementation of CARP, success is further assured.

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# NIA targets completion of P82.5B irrigation projects

Starting this year and up until 2008, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) sees the completion of irrigation projects worth a total of P82.5 billion.

Once completed, these projects would provide year-round supply of water to and, thus, improve farm yields of hundreds of thousands of farmers tilling a total of 674,100 hectares of agricultural land all over the country.

This represents about 22 percent of the country's total potential irrigable area. At present, only 1.37 million hectares or 44 percent of the country's total irrigable land have adequate irrigation facilities. In Luzon, the irrigation development level is now at 52 percent, in the Visayas, 45 percent and in Mindanao, 29 percent.

Most of these projects, which were started in the early and mid-'90s, are scheduled to be completed from this year until 2008. As of end-2001, about 42 percent or 280,177 hectares out of the total target area to be covered by these projects already had improved irrigation services.

"The completion of these projects will dramatically increase the hectarage where farmers can plant rice at least twice a year and consequently enhance the productivity of these farmlands and improve incomes in the countryside. The continued expansion of the country's irrigation systems would also contribute to price stability and food security," said Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras, NIA administrator.

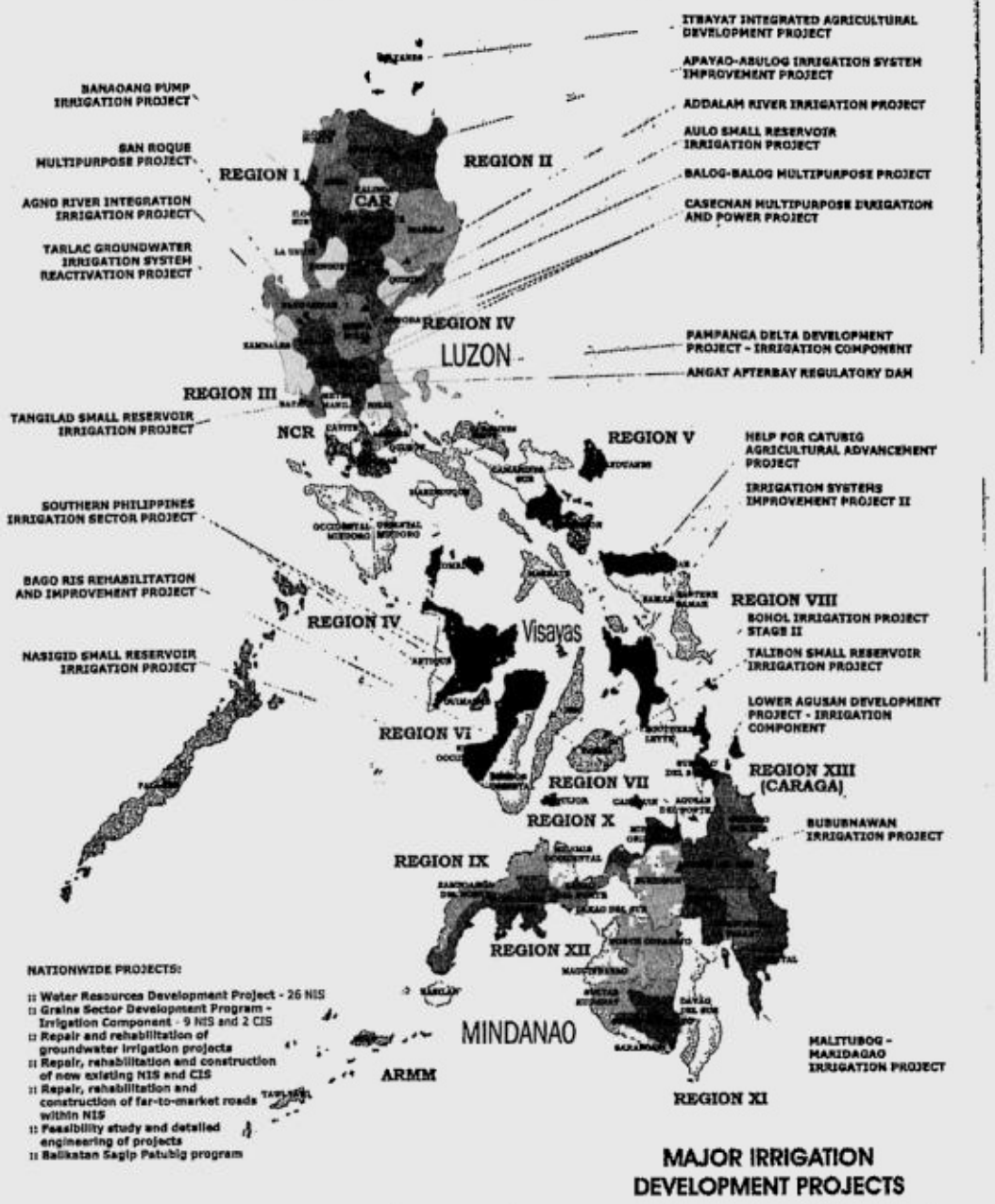
"Irrigation development," according to Agriculture Secretary and NIA Governing Board Chairman Leonardo Q. Montemayor, "is one of the prime movers of agricultural modernization and growth and we are happy that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has given our sector the much needed financial and moral support to ensure our survival and growth."

These projects cover both the construction of new irrigation facilities as well as the rehabilitation of existing ones. Most of them are funded by multilateral and bilateral institutions like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). A number are locally funded and are joint undertakings between the NIA and local government units and irrigators associations. JBIC provides about 70 percent of the financing requirements of the country's major irrigation projects.

The major foreign-assisted irrigation projects are concentrated in the rice-producing provinces of Luzon, including the P3.5-billion Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project in Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija, the P3.4-billion Pampanga Delta Development Project, and the P623-million Tarlac Groundwater Irrigation System Reactivation Project. All three are funded by JBIC.

In the Visayas, NIA's biggest project is the P2.38-billion Bohol Irrigation Project. In Mindanao, the agency is overseeing the completion of the P2.5-billion Maridagao-Malitubog Irrigation Project in North Cotabato and Maguindanao and the P2.1-billion Lower Agusan Development Project. These two major projects are also funded by JBIC. Another foreign-assisted project in Mindanao is the ADB-funded Kabulnan Irrigation and Area Development Project in Maguindanao.

Once completed, the San Roque and Casecnan projects in Luzon would also become environment-friendly sources of electricity as the water collected in the dams would be tapped to generate hydroelectric power before being eventually released to irrigate the nearby rice fields. San Roque's irrigation component is funded by the national government.




MAJOR IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

tipurpose Irrigation Project. In the Visayas, the Catubig Valley and the Dolores Irrigation Projects are the two biggest locally-funded ventures. In Mindanao, NIA's major locally-funded undertaking is the Bubunawan Irrigation Project.

Meanwhile, the World Bank, through its Water Resources Development Project, is supporting the rehabilitation and improvement of 39 national irrigation systems all over the country.

The NIA is also rehabilitating the smaller community-based irrigation projects under its Balikatan Sagip Patubig Program (BSPP). These small irrigation projects often go unnoticed but their impact on the lives of many farmers as well as their families, particularly those in remote villages, is equally noteworthy.

Launched in 1999, the BSPP is a joint undertaking with local government units and irrigators' associations for the construction and rehabilitation of communal irrigation systems which have already been devolved to the LGUs.

Other community-based packages of the NIA are the Small Reservoir Irrigation Project, the ADB-assisted Grain Sector Development Program, and the Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project.

The NIA is also actively supporting inter-agency projects that involve the development of agrarian reform communities under the Department of Agrarian Reform. The projects include the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program-Irrigation Component (CARP-IC), the JBIC-funded Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project (ARISP) and the World Bank-funded Agrarian Reform Community Development Project (ARCDP) which are being implemented nationwide. The Department of Agriculture's Mindanao Rural Development Project and Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project also have irrigation components that NIA is handling.

These projects, which involve the provision of support services and facilities to improve agricultural productivity and income for farmer beneficiaries, are being implemented under various programs supported by several multilateral agencies such as JBIC, the World Bank and ADB.

**I. LUZON**

Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project
Funding - Japan Bank for International Cooperation
Project cost - P5.832 billion
Target completion date - June 2004
Coverage:
Irrigation of 26,920 hectares of new area in Nueva Ecija
Rehabilation of selected portions of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System covering 55,100 hectares in Nueva Ecija
Small Scale Projects in the Watershed of Casecnan covering 280 hectares in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino
A total of 49,498 farmer-beneficiaries

**Tarlac Groundwater Irrigation Systems Reactivation Project**
Funding - JBIC
Project cost - P767.81 million
Target completion date - December 2003
Coverage:
Construction of 50 deepwell pump irrigation systems for a total of 2,500 hectares to increase food production in the province's eight municipalities and Tarlac City.
A total of 1,923 farmer-beneficiaries

**Pampanga Delta Development Project - Irrigation Component**
Funding - JBIC
Project cost - P4.557 billion
Target completion date - December 2002
Coverage:
Construction of diversion dam, pumping station, irrigation and drainage canals and related structures, on-farm and project facilities to service 10,540 hectares in seven municipalities in Pampanga.
A total of 7,000 farmer-beneficiaries

**Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project**
(Irrigation Component of the San Roque Multipurpose Project)
Funding - Local
Project cost - P8.634 billion
Target completion date: March 2008
Coverage:
Repair of existing Agno River weir and sluiceway and construction of new intake, canals and other related structures as well as farm-to-market roads
Year-round irrigation of a total of 70,800 hectares in 28 municipalities in Pangasinan and two municipalities in Tarlac using water coming from the San Roque Multipurpose Dam of the National Power Corporation
A total of 57,560 farmer-beneficiaries

**Apayao-Abulog Irrigation System Improvement Project**
Funding - Local
Project Cost - P850 million
Target completion date - December 2003
Coverage:
Construction of the Dacao dam and irrigation facilities and rehabilitation of the existing system currently irrigating a total of 10,535 hectares in four municipalities in Apayao and five municipalities in Cagayan. An additional 6,465 hectares will be covered by the additional irrigation canals that are being constructed.
The project also includes the construction of 246 kilometers of farm-to-market roads.
A total of 13,090 farmer-beneficiaries

**Addalam River Irrigation Project**
Funding - Local
Project cost - P993.99 million
Target completion date: December 2003
Coverage:
Construction of a dam and related irrigation facilities including a 3.6-kilometer access road to service 5,830 hectares of farmlands in Aglipay and Saguday in Quirino and Jones and Echaque in Isabela.
A total of 6,100 farmer-beneficiaries

**Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project- Phase II**
Funding - Local
Project cost - P12.028 billion
Target completion date: December 2009
Coverage:
To provide year-round irrigation to 39,150 hectares of farmlands in eight municipalities in Tarlac.
A total of 23,400 farmer-beneficiaries

**Aulo Small Reservoir**
Funding - Local
Project cost: P351.33 million
Target completion date: December 2004
Coverage:
Construction of a zoned earthfill dam and 103-hectare reservoir area to irrigate a total of 810 hectares in Palayan City in Nueva Ecija.
A total of 500 farmer-beneficiaries

**Tangilad Small Reservoir Irrigation Project**
Funding - Local
Project cost: P286.30 million
Target completion date: December 2002
Coverage:
Construction of a zoned earthfill dam and a nine-hectare reservoir to irrigate 860 hectares of farmlands in Samal and Orani in Bataan
A total of 698 farmer-beneficiaries

**II. VISAYAS**

Nasig-id Small Reservoir Irrigation Project
Funding - Local
Project cost: P262.6 million
Target completion date: December 2001
Coverage:
Construction of a zoned earthfill dam and a 3.1-hectare reservoir to irrigate 915 hectares of farmlands in Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental
A total of 288 farmer-beneficiaries

**Bohol Irrigation Project, Stage 2**
Funding - JBIC
Project cost: P2.384 billion
Target completion date: December 2005
Coverage:
Irrigation of a total of 5,300 hectares of farmlands in Ubay, San Miguel and Trinidad in Bohol
A total of 1,635 farmer-beneficiaries

**Bago River Irrigation System Rehabilitation and Improvement Project**
Funding - JBIC
Project cost: P1.868 billion
Target completion date: December 2007
Coverage:
Irrigation of a total of 13,277 hectares of farmlands in the cities of Bacolod, Bago and La Carlota as well as the municipalities of Murcia, Pulupandan, San Enrique and Villadolid.

**Second Irrigation Systems Improvement Project**
Funding - ADB
Project cost: P1.883 billion
Target completion date: December 2002
Coverage:
Rehabilitation of nine national irrigation systems in Northern Leyte as part of the poverty alleviation program.
The project also includes improving farm-to-market roads, a program to control schistosomiasis and promote environmental protection.
A total of 12,000 farmer-beneficiaries

**Help for Catubig Agricultural Advancement Project**
Funding - JBIC
Project cost: P1.737 billion
Coverage:
A multi-component project designed to alleviate poverty by raising farm incomes, generate employment opportunities and improve social infrastructure and services in Catubig Valley in Northern Leyte and in Northern Samar.
A total of 4,500 hectares will be irrigated
A total of 1,613 farmer-beneficiaries

**III. MINDANAO**

Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project
Funding - JBIC
Project cost: P3.271 billion
Target completion date: December 2003
Coverage:
Construction of a dam, main and lateral canals, roads, drainage and on-farm facilities covering a total of 10,840 hectares of farmlands in Pikit and Carmen in North Cotabato and Pagagawaan and Pagalungan in Maguindanao.
A total of 4,549 farmer-beneficiaries

**Lower Agusan Development Project Irrigation Component**
Funding - JBIC
Project cost: P2.256 billion
Target completion date: December 2003
Coverage:

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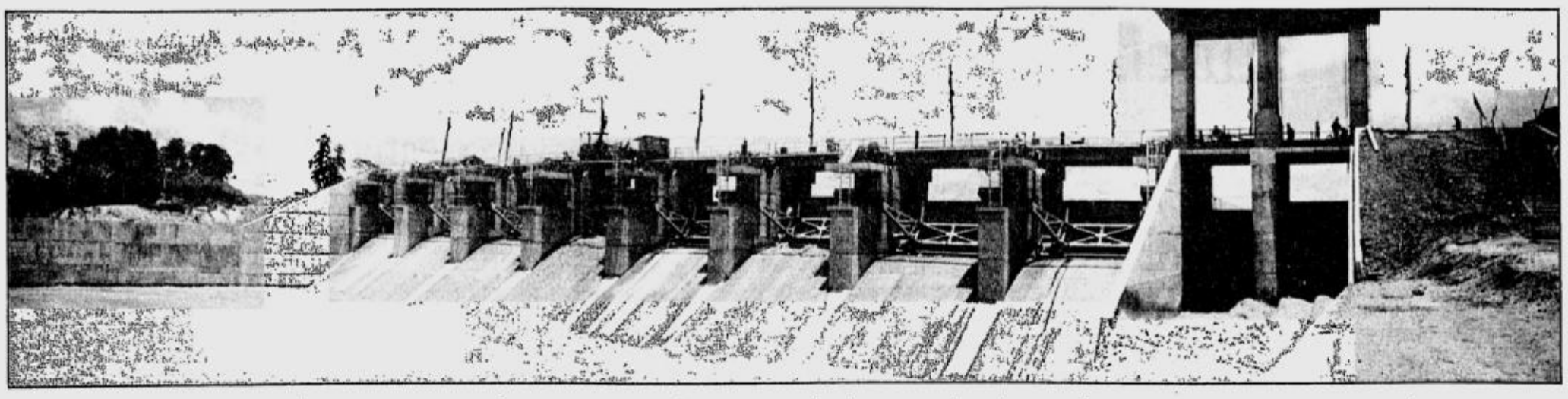


# Mal-Mar makes Mindanao's long delayed development a reality

## Casecnan project to irrigate 26,000 hectares, generate 150 MW of power

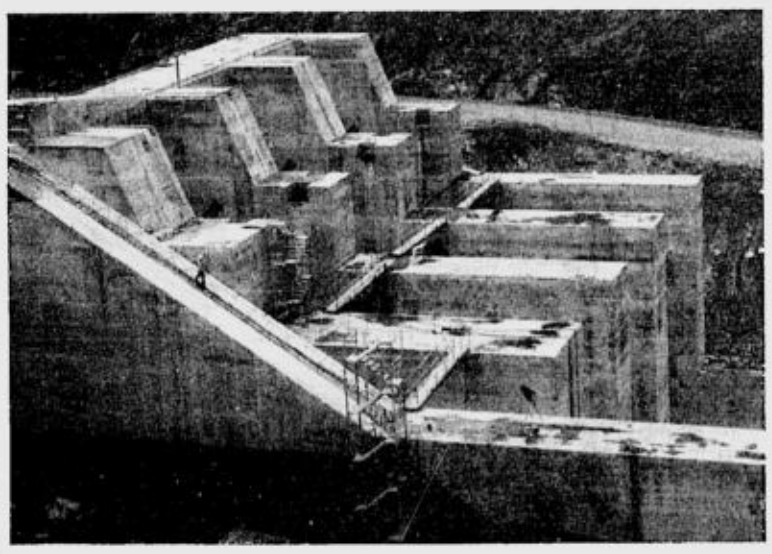
ON December 11, 2001, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and CE Casecnan Water and Energy Company, Inc. (CE Casecnan) commenced commercial operations of the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project, marking the beginning of a 20-year partnership.

Under this partnership, CE Casecnan will supply the NIA with irrigation water utilizing the waters collected from the Casecnan and Taan rivers in Nueva Vizcaya and transporting it through a 26-kilometer tunnel beneath the Caraballo mountain range to the existing Pantabangan reservoir. The water will be used by the NIA to irrigate 26,000 hectares of new farmlands in Nueva Ecija and stabilize water supply to 102,000 hectares of farmlands in the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS), which include areas in Bulacan and Tarlac.

The project has the potential of increasing the Philippines' palay harvest by 465,000 metric tons annually, boosting the country's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in this staple commodity.

Its power component will also supply the NIA with 150 megawatts of power for resale to the National Power Corporation (NPC).

The Casecnan project enables the full utilization of the Pantabangan Dam, which has been underutilized for lack of water supply. Since its development phase in 1993 up to its completion last year, the NIA has been at the forefront of this venture, ensuring that this breakthrough project becomes a reality.



The Casecnan weir at Pelaway, Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya.

When President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated the Malitubog Maridagao (Mal-Mar) Irrigation Project in Mindanao last September, she not only marked the on-time completion of a P3.3-billion undertaking that took the government a dozen difficult years to finish. She, more importantly, signaled the realization of a long-cherished dream to bring agricultural development to one of the most depressed areas in the country.

This National Irrigation Administration project, whose completion was delayed for years by insurgency and other peace and order problems, including the spate of kidnappings, was designed to irrigate over 10,000 hectares of farmland being tilled by close to 5,000 farmers in Pikit and Carmen in North Cotabato and Pagagawaan and Pagalungan in Maguindanao.

When it was inaugurated by President Arroyo in September last year, she fulfilled a major commitment to Mindanao and marked a milestone in her State of the Nation Address that year. At the same time, she showed in the Malitubog-Maridagao project how challenges could be conquered by dedication and concerted efforts from all parties involved.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines increased the number of troops stationed in the area to enable the NIA and its contractor to speed up construction activities. Its contractor, China Import and Export Technologies Inc. (CETIC) remained unfazed despite the abduction and loss of two Chinese engineers. After a day of mourning for their colleagues, the Chinese engineering team buckled down to work once again to finish the project that had long been delayed by skirmishes between the military and the rebels.

CETIC deputy general manager Shao Wei wrote the NIA,to assure the agency that they were not abandoning the project despite the tragic incident for as long as their security was fully and carefully guaranteed on the jobsite and construction area.

As the AFP increased its troops, the contractor also doubled the equipment and personnel stationed in the project area. At the same time, NIA beefed up its personnel to augment the contractor's workforce.

Funded by the Japanese government, this project should have been completed in 1998. Beset with problems arising out of a local insurgency, the Japanese funders agreed to extend the project loan until May 2003. President Arroyo set September 2001 as the firm deadline for the dam's completion. "We worked double time to meet the President's deadline," Paras said.

The project financing, coursed through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, is payable in 20 years at an interest rate of only 2.7 percent.

"We and the Japanese government saw the relevance of this irrigation project to the farm communities in Mindanao," Paras said, "It seeks to irrigate 10,840 hectares of farmlands. The construction of a dam, roads, drainage and other on-farm facilities will definitely enhance the farmers' productivity and incomes."

## Tarlac project to benefit 23,000 farmers

THE Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project in Tarlac is only one of the many irrigation projects of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) envisioned by the present administration to enlarge the hectarage for palay in the country.

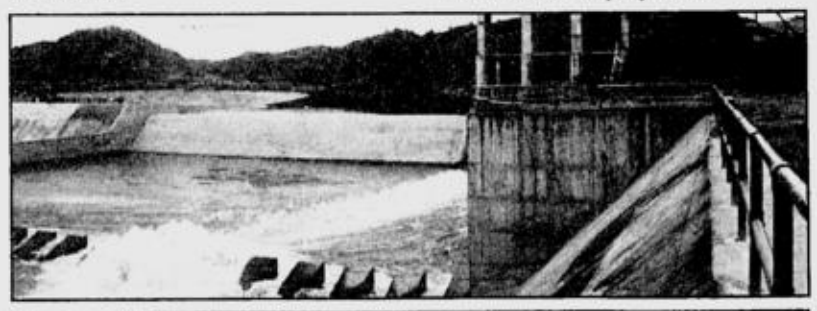
When completed, it is expected to irrigate some 39,150 hectares and reap benefits for approximately 23,000 farmers in and around the vicinity.

The Balog-Balog project envisions the following:

Construction of a high dam and raising of the Tarlac diversion dam; construction of main canals and new irrigation facilities to bring irrigation to 24,849 hectares and improvement/rehabilitation of existing canals, facilities and structures servicing 14,301 hectares; and the repair and renovation of camp facilities.

The NIA management has announced the objectives of the project as follows:

1. To increase paddy rice production and diversified crops.
2. To increase annual per capita income and upgrade the living standard of the rural folk.
3. To protect and conserve the Balog-Balog watershed.
4. To create employment.



ruction of two pumping stations, project ilities; irrigation and drainage canals and facilities to irrigate 7,922 hectares of nds in Butuan City and Buenavista in Agusan orted

l 14,445 farmer-beneficiaries

**wan River Irrigation Project**
- Local
cost: P500 million
ompletion date: December 2003
ruction of two diversion dams and 68 ki ersion main, lateral and sub-lateral canals to tap the water resources potentials of Bubunawan and Tumalaong and irrigate 000 hectares of paddy Baungon and Ligating i n. ributi
l of 4,540 farmer-beneficiaries

**wan River Irrigation Project (Overall)**
- Local
cost: P290 million
ompletion date: December 2003
roject would tap the unused water of nawan River and construct complete ion and drainage system, a teruvian type rt service and access roads, canals and d structures and bridges to irrigate another hectares of farmlands in Baungon, noba
l of 4,500 farmer-beneficiaries

**ao Rural Development Project - Irriga- b component**
- World Bank
cost: P235 million
ompletion date: June 2003
ate transition arrangements for LGUs to ver greater responsibility for communal ion developments. The NIA is taking the le in implementing the program for nt operation and maintenance of com d systems by involving LGUs and ops associations.

The program is servicing a total of 5,278 hectares of farmlands in Compostela Valley, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Cotabato and Agusan del Sur.

**IV. NATIONWIDE PROJECTS**

Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project
Funding - Asian Development Bank
Project cost: P4.169 billion
Target completion date: December 2005
Coverage:
Construction and improvement of small- to medium-scale irrigation systems, strengthening of irrigation operation and maintenance through beneficiaries participation and improving the institutional capacity of implementing agencies.
Development of irrigation and drainage facilities covering 19,195 hectares for intensive cultivation of rice and other crops in the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Lanao del Sur, Negros Occidental and Cebu.
A total of 13,00 farmer-beneficiaries

**Water Resources Development Project (WRDP)**
Funding - World Bank
Project cost: P2.418 billion
Completion date: December 2001
Coverage:
The project is envisioned to help the government implement a broad policy and institutional framework in the water sector, formulate a water resources management strategy, adopt a river basin approach, and integrate land use policies and agricultural practices with water management.
Improvement of upstream watersheds for sustaining irrigation and other policies to assure water quality and protect aquatic ecosystems.
Enhancement of existing national irrigation systems and the emphasis of decentralized management participation of stakeholders and greater cost recovery.
A nationwide project covering a total of 86,036 hectares of farmlands in Cagayan, Isabela, Tarlac, Palawan, Laguna, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Iloilo, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, Agusan del Sur, and North Cotabato.
A total of 54,368 farmer-beneficiaries

**Grains Sector Development Project - Irrigation Component**
Funding - ADB
Project cost: P2.168 billion
Target completion date: December 2005
Coverage:
Rehabilitation and expansion of national and communal irrigation systems all over the country covering 18,000 hectares
The following provinces are covered by the program: Cagayan, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela (Region 1); Oriental Mindoro (Region 4); Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Masbate, Sorsogon (Region 5), Aklan and Negros Occidental (Region 6), Bukidnon (Region 10), Sarangani, Davao del Sur, and Compostela Valley (Region 11) and Lanao del Norte, Cotabato and Maguindanao (Region 12).
A total of 15,000 farmer beneficiaries

**Pump Irrigation Development Project**
Funding - Local
Project cost: P4.103 billion
Completion date: 1997
Coverage:
Rehabilitation of existing wells and drilling of new deep and shallow wells and installation of pumps to tap surface water for irrigation needs.
To service a total of 60,000 hectares of farm lands nationwide
A total of 20,000 farmer-beneficiaries

**Balikatan Sagip Patubig Program**
Funding - Local
Project cost: P100 million
Coverage:
A joint project between the Department of Agriculture, NIA, local government units and the local irrigators' associations for the repair and rehabilitation of existing and construction of new communal irrigation systems. The association shoulders the cost of labor while the DA/NIA correspondingly share the remaining costs. The program was designed to augment the limited resources of the LGUs.
A total of 10,015 hectares of farmlands all over the country will be serviced
A total of 4,918 farmer-beneficiaries

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# DA, NIA launch special Balikatan

Balikatan does not only refer to the joint exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US military designed to combat terrorism, it also refers to a project being jointly implemented by the different government agencies to fight poverty in the countrysides.

Balikatan is a term referring to cooperation or joint conduct. It is also a known Filipino trait.

It is in this same spirit, that the Department of Agriculture in its pursuit of food security, improved farm productivity and increased incomes in the countryside, launched the Balikatan Sagip Patubig Program (BSPP) as one of its leading strategies in attaining its vision.

The BSPP is a counterparting scheme undertaken by the DA, NIA, local government units concerned and the community-based irrigators' association for the repair and rehabilitation of community irrigation systems and construction of new projects. The innovative scheme was designed to augment the limited budget of the LGUs for their development projects while harnessing and maximizing the participation of the whole community.

Under the program, the irrigators' association shoulders the labor cost while DA and NIA equally share the burden of the remaining cost. The LGU, is primarily responsible in undertaking the rehabilitation works and NIA will assist on some of the details the latter does not have the capability to handle.

The DA and NIA are now implementing projects under this program in the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Mt. Province (in the Cordillera Autonomous Region); La Union and Pangasinan (Region 1); Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino (Region 2); Tarlac, Bataan and Nueva Ecija (Region 3); Aurora (Region 4); Albay, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur (Region 5); Antique, Aklan, Negros Occidental and Capiz (Region 6); Northern Leyte, Northern Samar, and Eastern Samar (Region 8); Tawi-tawi (Region 9); Camiguin (Region 10); and Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, and Agusan del Sur (Region 13).

The initial results are encouraging. NIA managed to generate 21,000 hectares of farmlands in 2001, more than twice the average yearly generation in the 1990s and 1980s and close to the 1970s productive performance. Of the 21,000 hectares generated, 51 percent were delivered by foreign-assisted projects like Mal-Mar, Kabulnan and Casecnan: 21 percent by the DAR and DA inter-agency projects and the rest by locally-funded projects.

**ANGAT AFTERBAY REGULATOR DAM REHAB. NIA Administrator Paras (center), with, from left, CTIE consultant Tokishi Kayyakami, Japanese Embassy first secretary Eiji Ueno, JBIC Rep. Hideo Ono and Mesami Ishikawa of Zenitaka Corp. leads the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Angat Afterbay Regulator dam rehabilatation project.**

Balikatan sa Kalinisan at Kagandahan

## Boosting employee morale by cleaning the workplace

EARLY this year, the National Irrigation Administration launched the 5S of Good Housekeeping Program, in the belief that "presentable surroundings and offices promote productivity and efficiency."

The main objectives of the program, according to NIA administrator Jesus E. M. Paras, are to inculcate among employees the importance of cleanliness, high standard and self-discipline, and to improve their work and productivity.

A program launched by the extension arm for advocacy of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), 5S is known in NIA as Balikatan sa Kalinisan at Kagandahan (BSKK)

The DTI program 5S actually stands for five Japanese words: Seire (Sort); Seiton (Systematize); Seiso (Sweep); Seiketsu (Standardize); Shitsuke (Self-Discipline). They describe steps to ensure good housekeeping, representing spontaneous and continuous improvement of the working environment and conditions.

In annual awards presented by NIA, recipient Vicente Tolentino, Principal Engineer A, who has been with NIA for 29 years, said: " I'm grateful to be part of NIA. Through this, I was able to raise my family well and they really helped me to give my children a better education." NIA provides benefits such as clothing allowance, cost of living allowance, productivity incentive bonus, mid-year bonus, leave monetization, and many others.

NIA also offers training and seminars to make employees more productive and efficient. Martha Camada, supervising irrigator developer officer, shared her experiences at NIA. " I have learned to mingle with the farmers. Now I know what their needs are, how NIA is helping them and how irrigation is important in agriculture." Smiling, she added, "I became a better person, too." She has been with NIA for 12 years.


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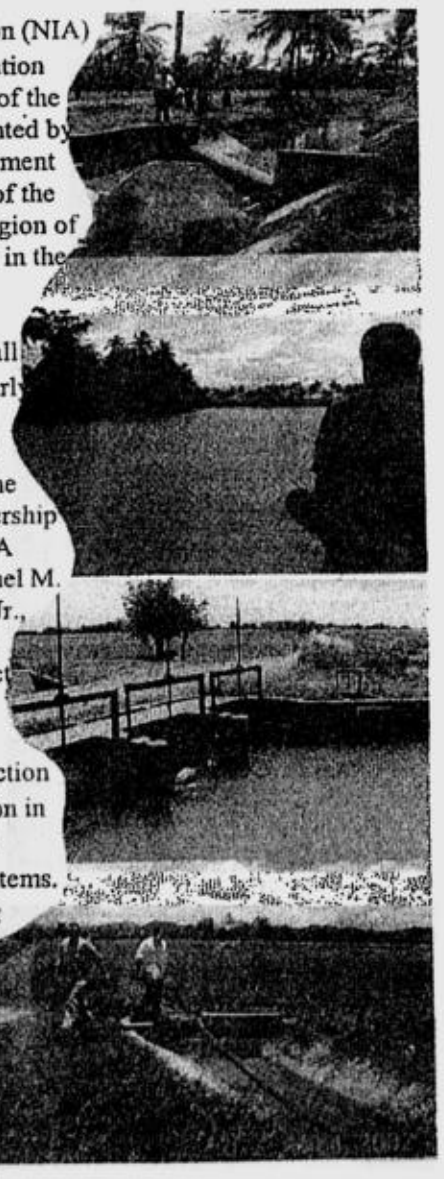
**Congratulations to the National Irrigation Administration on the Occasion of it's 39th Anniversary!!!**

## Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project

In June 2000, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) officially launched the Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project (SPISP). SPISP is a seven-year project of the Government of the Philippines (GOP) being implemented by NIA with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Project covers the depressed areas of the CARAGA Region (Region XIII), the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and Regions VI and VII in the Visayas.

NIA has overall authority and responsibility for all aspects of subproject implementation, particularly the design, construction and rehabilitation of national irrigation and small reservoir projects. The Provincial Government of Agusan Del Norte is responsible for the communal irrigation projects. Providing overall leadership and supervision in project implementation are key NIA officials headed by NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras, Deputy Administrator Marcelino V. Tugaoen, Jr., Assistant Administrator for Project Development and Implementation Antonio A. Galvez, and SPISP Project Manager Clemente T. Alanano.

SPISP endeavors for increased agricultural production and crop diversification through user participation in the development or improvement of subprojects, and subsequent management and transfer of irrigation systems. Up to 10,000 farm households are expected to benefit from the Project through reduced rural poverty.



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# El Niño: Understanding a once baffling global phenomenon

It's June but where are the monsoon rains? It is still hot and humid and weather forecasters have cautioned that the delayed onset of the rainy season is an indication that El Niño is back.

It may seem like El Niño is a recent phenomenon—all of a sudden everybody is discussing its adverse economic effects. Articles about it are written on the front pages of leading newspapers and magazines, full-length documentaries and commentaries are featured on television, and even banks and insurance companies are now starting to consider the effects of El Niño in their assessment of business risks.

Is this another greenhouse gas effect? El Niños have been around for thousands of years, but it took a while for scientists to put the puzzle together.

There are historical records of an El Niño that took place in 1567. What earlier civilizations thought of the change in weather and what gods they cursed for the drought, lack of fish or massive rains that wiped out their crops at this point is anybody's guess.

Flooding rains and warm weather in Peru wiped out the anchovy harvest. Torrential downpours and mud slides hit southern California while the Northeast United States is enjoying a mild winter with fewer hurricanes. Prolonged droughts hit Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as Africa and Australia. All within the period of the same few months. All these seemingly climatic aberrations could only be related.

### Established Global Pattern

In fact, it is not an aberration, it is a well-established pattern—occurring worldwide once every four to seven years with varying intensity. Scientists gave it a longer name: El Niño/Southern Oscillation or ENSO.

Normally, the winds blow east to west across the Southern Pacific. The winds travel along the surface of the sea and bring warm surface water along with them to the western coasts. And as the warm surface water is pushed away from the coasts of Peru, colder, nutrient-rich water rushes up to take its place. The resulting cool, plankton-filled waters provide good feeding grounds for the anchovy population on which many Peruvian fishermen depend for survival.

During El Niño years, these trade winds relax, or even reverse, as was the case during the devastating 1982-83 El Niño. Warm water sloshes back east and the result is devastating for the anchovies. During the 1972 El Niño, the anchovy population was estimated to have dropped from 20 million to two million. This, in turn, reduces the number of marine birds that feed on the anchovy. The birds' excrement (guano) deposits on the islands off the Peruvian coast subsequently drop. Guano, a source of fertilizer, is another important economic asset of Peru.

No wonder the Peruvian sailors who fished in small boats along the western-most shores of South America were the first to give a name to the phenomenon. Because the phenomenon would usually begin to peak around the Christian Christmas holiday, the sailors named the odd weather "El Niño," referring to the Christ Child.

Scientists started tracking the unusual weather phenomenon. More and more resources were brought to bear on the phenomenon and scientists continued to collect data and document the weather. It was not until the advent of high-speed computers, though, that the complex interactions and massive amounts of data could be put together to provide a really clear picture of the phenomenon.

The 1976-77 El Niño brought severe cold weather over the eastern United States and drought in the west. Polar regions were so cold the bears did not hibernate. During the month of January 1977, 85 percent of the ground was covered by snow at some time during the month. Sunny Miami, Florida reported snow flurries while snow drifts in Buffalo, New York piled two stories high.

The 1982-83 El Niño caught scientists by surprise. Unlike the El Niños of the previous three decades, it was not preceded by a period of stronger than normal easterlies on the equator and it took place later in the calendar year than usual.

North America experienced wildly unusual weather throughout 1983, Australia experienced massive drought and devastating bushfires, it was one of the worst periods for drought in the sub-Sahelian countries and the monsoons failed in the Indian Ocean. Reputed to be one of the worst El Niños, total damages were estimated at somewhere between $8 billion and $13 billion and 2,000 lives were lost.

A minor respite followed after the 1982-83 spell. Then another El Niño was experienced in 1986-87 followed by a La Nina in 1988-89. La Nina occurs after some (but not all) El Niño years. Then another El Niño occurred starting in 1990 until mid-'95, the longest in 130 years of record-keeping.

### El Niño in RP

The prolonged drought in the early '90s was marked by the crippling power crisis in the Philippines, starting in Mindanao which was, and still is, highly dependent on what used to be the abundant water resources of Lake Lanao. But as the drought raged, the water level of the lake plunged to precarious levels, bringing a period of power outages and forcing the many industrial and commercial establishments in Southern Philippines to voluntarily schedule plant shutdowns to avoid possible damage to their equipment and machinery.

The El Niño of 1997-98 also wrought havoc to the Philippine economy. A 6.6 percnt drop in agricultural production due to the drought caused the gross domestic product to contract. El Niño caused a dry spell between June and October 1997 and this lingered until June 1998, affecting 68 percent of the country.

El Niño drastically reduced the water supply. In just one province, water for irrigation of about 27,000 hectares of rice and corn was cut off, affecting 15,000 farmer-households that lost about 100,000 metric tons of rice. A total of 9,400 hectares of forest burned in 1997-1998, resulting in damage worth hundreds of millions of pesos.

Lack of drinking water, unsanitary conditions and extreme heat made people prone to communicable disease and caused their health to deteriorate. Deaths, many resulting from food poisoning, were reported.

The country could see a repeat of these dire occurrences this year, unless scientists are able to anticipate, control and lull El Niño to a benign passage, which no one has been able to do for over 130 years now. At the onset of El Niño, the best way to weather its effects is to prudently manage scarce water resources, which become more precious as El Niño becomes more intense and prolonged.

# Agency to honor outstanding workers at awards rites today

From page F1

Equipment Manager of the Year, Alejandro L. Alberca of Marbel-Banga RIS, Region XI as Regional Irrigation Superintendent of the Year, and Victor L. Go as Provincial Irrigation Officer of the Year.

Also to be cited as Outstanding Irrigation Superintendents of the Year are Alberto B. Lacuaren of Salug RIS, Region IX, Mariano G. Dancel of District IV-MARIIS, Antonio C. Lara of Lower Chico RIS Region II, Pedro B. Lomutos of Batutu RIS Region XI, Albarito B. Dimson of Andanan RIS, Region XIII, Tedoro B. Abbot of Padada RIS, Region XI, Florentino C. Baniqued Jr. of District II MARIIS, Jaime G. Carag of District I MARIIS, Bernardino S. Galorio of Gibong RIS, Region XIII, Abdulkamid M. Salik of Alip RIS, Region XII, Honorato O. Bienes of Alabama RIS, Region XI, Pelagio S. Gamad, Jr. of District III MARIIS, Salvio B. Retes of Sibuguey RIS, Region IX, Felix M. Razo of Lupon RIS, Region XI, Medel P. Mauile of Cabadbaran-Taguibo RIS, Region XIII, William P. Ragodon of Cagaycay RIS, Region V and Victor L. Alegario of Tago RIS, Region XIII.

Among the awardees are the Most Outstanding Irrigators' Associations for the Year, both in the CIS and the NIS categories on the national level, as well as the Outstanding Irrigators' Associations for the Year for the same categories on the regional level, which will be named during the awards rites.

A special feature of the ceremony will be the awarding of prizes and plaques of citation to the winners of the recently-concluded NIA National Painting Contest participated in by 30 students from various colleges and universities nationwide who designed works of art around the contest themes "Irrigation and Economic Development," "Irrigation and the Environment," "Irrigation and Juan dela Cruz" and "Irrigation and Agricultural Development."

First prize winner Rose Anne M. Gregorio of the University of the Philippines Diliman will receive P30,000, while second placer Mark Allan Yuson of the Araullo University of Nueva Ecija will get P20,000 and third placer Wilson Pedro, Jr. will receive P10,000.

Seven consolation prizes of P5,000 each go to the other winners, including Wilfredo Rufon of the University of the East (Caloocan) who won two prizes for his two entries, Arsenio Lebaste, Jr. of the Pangasinan State University, Lynard Arwin Paras of the Technological University of the Philippines, and Mark Don Arcamo, Cornelius Arcacio and Demetrio Padua, all of the Far Eastern University.

NIA's cleanest and most orderly office contest winners will also be proclaimed and cited during the affair, while a number of NIA employees will be presented Loyalty Awards.


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# Irrigators' Associations: NIA's partners in agricultural dev't

The task of the National Irrigation Administration is far from over even after the building of the dams and irrigation canals had been completed.

For it takes more than dams and irrigation canals to ensure farmers a year-round water supply—it also means astute management of what is otherwise a scarce and valuable resource.

A sustainable irrigation system therefore should have an efficient community-based management system to ensure equitable resource sharing among the beneficiaries.

"The partnership between NIA and the irrigators' associations is indispensable in the proper and sustainable operation and maintenance of irrigation systems," said NIA administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras.

"In the government's quest for food sufficiency and security, a substantial amount of money is being invested in irrigation infrastructures, not for anybody else, but for the farmers, with all the expectations that they would take care of these facilities and improve their crop production particularly of the Filipino staple - rice," Paras added.

**Members of the National Confederation of Irrigators Associations got together in a recent seminar on seed production.**

Thus, NIA had emphasized the importance of strengthening the irrigators' associations all over the country.

"Our partnership became a reality when NIA established about 25 years ago pilot sites that served as learning laboratories on effective farmers participation and involvement in irrigation development and management," Paras explained.

The National Confederation of Irrigators Associations (NCIA) is the country's biggest farmers organization.

"Irrigators associations play a vital role in water management and cropping calendar as well as in assisting NIA in collecting the irrigation service fees," Amador D. Dulig, NCIA president, said.

To strengthen these organizations, NIA continuously conducts training programs that include leadership development, financial and system management. These modules are essential in enhancing their capabilities for managing their affairs and handling the operation and maintenance of irrigation systems.

NIA also ensures that these associations are properly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Last April, NIA launched a development study on strengthening the irrigators associations, an endeavor supported by the Japan International Cooperating Agency (JICA). The 15-month study will come out with a detailed program on how to strengthen the irrigators associations to become self-reliant and upgrade the skills of the members.

## Outstanding IAs Named

WHAT could 235 farmers in Isabela have in common with 1,350 tillers in Davao del Sur?

Other than membership in their Irrigators' Associations (IA's) similar to 750,000 others in over 5,000 IA's nationwide, they are recipients of the prestigious Outstanding IA's Award for 2002.

Since 1996, the National Irrigation Administration has been conducting an annual search for the outstanding IA's among the thousands managing the various national and communal irrigation systems. The search aims to give recognition to IAs that have shown outstanding performance and achievements as partners of the agency in managing irrigation systems as well as in demonstrating unique capabilities in sustaining the functionality and viability of the organization.

This year's awardees come from the far-flung municipalities of Magsaysay in Davao del Sur and Sto. Domingo, Alicia in Isabela.

The Bagong Silang Irrigators Association of Sto. Domingo, Alicia, Isabela has 235 members tilling a total of 537 hectares of farmland. Average production is 115 cavans per hectare during wet season and 110 cavans during dry season.

Furthermore, Bagong Silang collects close to P1.3 million in irrigation service fees, a feat that any irrigators' association could be very proud of. In addition, the association handles minor repairs on the system and manages water distribution.

To strengthen the organization and upgrade the skills of its members, Bagong Silang regularly conducts training on basic leadership, system management, value formation, as well as gender participation. They also update their members on integrated pest management, rat pest management as well as hybrid production.

Down south in Davao del Sur, the Badagoy communal irrigation system stands out. BADAGOY stands for Barayong, Dalawinon and Calamagoy—all in the municipality of Magsaysay— a reflection of the organization's over 50 years experience of organizational expansion and integration.

Badagoy's irrigation system is peculiar in a sense that it started as a private effort shortly after the World War II when 18 Ilocanos led by Faustino Foronda migrated to Mindanao in search of a better life. Cultivating upland rainfed rice and corn, the group envisioned to tap the waters of the nearby Balatukan River to irrigate their farms and improve their yields.

Each member of the group worked on the canals for free, bringing their own food, farm animals and tools. They completed the first network of canals along the right side of the river in 1952. The following year, several other farmers joined the group and started working on the left side.

The rest, as the cliché goes, is history.

Now the Badagoy Irrigators Association, which was incorporated in 1960, oversees the operation and maintenance of the communal irrigation system servicing 2,050 hectares of ricelands. What was started by 18 pioneers is now an organization with a total of 1,350 members.

As NIA turns in an outstanding year, the competition for next year's award promises to be even tougher. As in every dramatic turnaorund, however, there will always be heroes and achievers. The field of performing IA's will expectedly grow, but this will only mean a more exciting contest and perhaps even more winners.

IMPACTS AND PROSPECTS

# Irrigating prosperity in the countryside

How can anyone talk of agriculture without mentioning rainfall? For that matter, of modern farming without irrigation. It would be like talking of life itself without water.

It is not called the universal solvent for nothing. In recognition of this equally universal truth, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has, over the years, established itself at the forefront of all agricultural undertakings in the country. From very humble beginning in 1963, as an independent and autonomous body, the NIA now proudly announces its most notable achievement—1.37 million hectares with irrigation facilities as of year-end 2001, or roughly 44 percent of the archipelago's potential irrigable areas. Even during torrid summers, NIA still managed to irrigate around 474,600 hectares in its service areas and, plus the celestial assistance during the rainy season, farm production could intensify by as much as 142 percent.

Random samplings nationwide of how farmers view these innovations in their lives buttressed the growing perception that NIA has been an effective agency of the state. A farmer from Sto. Tomas, Pampanga, Arturo Pequiro, 34, offers this observation: *"Nakakatulong talaga ang mga ginagawang irrigation projects ng NIA sa amin. Mas masagana ang palay na naaani naming kaysa noon dahil sa mga proyektong ito, katulad ng pag-rerehabilitate ng lupa."*

From Mambusao, Iloilo, Felix Marciano, 41, feels production has considerably increased with NIA support, simultaneously with making them better agricultural workers: *"Natuto kaming panatilihin ang aming mga sistemang pang-irigasyon na nasa amin dahil sa training na binibigay ng NIA. Mas maganda and kinalabasan ng produksyon at nagging mas mabuti kaming magsasaka."*

As an economically-minded housewife from Bay, Laguna, Marilyn Lalap, 36, is grateful for the low rental rates of farm machines: *"Mas nakakatipid kami dahil hindi na naming kailangang bumili pa ng sarili naming makina. Puwede kasi kaming mag-arkila sa NIA. Mas mura ito kaysa sa kung bibili pa kami, eh hindi naming kaya 'yon."*

For his part, Jun Gador, 38, of Misamis Oriental, cites the NIA's public works projects: *"Inayos ng NIA ang* mga access roads, drainage *at* flood protection systems *sa mga lugar na may irigasyon dahil ang mga ito ay mahalaga sa aming hanapbuhay. Nagiging mas produktibo kami dahil dito."*

Romy Ladin, 45, of Mampali, Bukidnon feels that despite irrigation fees, palay production has increased due to credit extended by the Integrated Farm Support Project: *"Kahit sinisingil kami ng NIA ng mga* irrigation fees, *tinutulungan naman nila kami na mabayaran ang mga ito sa pamamagitan ng IFSP. At dahil rin sa IFSP, tumataas ang produksyon ng palay naming pati na rin ang aming kinikita."*

And finally, a 26-year-old lass from Labanga, Zamboanga del Sur, Analyn Sagrada pays kudos to the NIA, saying *"Mainam po ang suporta na nakukuha naming mula sa NIA, lalo na sa proyekto nilang IFSP."*

The reader will note the addresses of the above-mentioned respondents who are unanimous in their praise of the role the NIA plays in their lives. With a roof over their heads, food on the table and children in schools, plus a few amenities of the good life we have taken for granted, these farmers now actually enjoy a living standard they had only dreamed of before.

Indeed, the convulsions in the global history of economics had taught even the most highly industrialized nations that without a broad, robust and sustaining agricultural base, they will founder in due time to expose the dismal artificiality of their pretentious strivings. And the vagaries of weather, though at times relieved by heavenly provenance, only stress the unqualified fullness of irrigation as the backbone of any agricultural endeavor. A condition *sine qua non*, the delivery of water to the farms through irrigation is the lifeblood of agriculture.

# GMA farm benefits cited

In the traditional lender-borrower relationship, the former makes sure that the latter has the capacity to repay him, before he dispenses the loan.

In the Integrated Farm Support Project (IFSP) of the National Irrigation Administration under its Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA), the farmer gets the "loan" in agricultural inputs before he is provided the capacity to pay the loan — by the lenders themselves.

The IFSP-GMA is an innovative inter-agency program geared to improve farm production and boost the farmer's income so that he can pay the service fees for irrigation. IFSP-GMA is in line with the program of the Arroyo administration to increase rice production and attain self-sufficiency.

Adopting a holistic approach, the program is participated in and coordinated by the Department of Agriculture and its attached agencies—NIA, Philrice, National Food Authority; financial institutions like the Land Bank of the Philippines and Quendacor and some private companies that manufacture and supply important farm inputs like fertilizer and pesticides.

A memorandum of agreement was recently signed in which Land Bank agreed to finance the seeds, labor and organic fertilizer while Philphos will supply on credit for 180 days the fertilizer and insecticides. Meanwhile, Quedancor guarantees 85 percent of the amount while the remaining 15 percent will be shouldered by the irrigators associations on cash basis as their equity. Repayment could be in kind, to be sold and delivered to NFA.

Speaking before members of the various irrigators associations, NIA Administrator Jesus E.M. Paras said he hopes that the various associations and their members could meet all the requirements of the project "so that you would eventually reap the real incentives and benefits from the undertaking."

The program will be implemented in stages. The pilot area started with merely 30,000 hectares. Phase 1 is now being implemented with the onset of this year's wet season, starting from May to October, covering a total of 250,000 hectares. The second phase will start in November until April next year and will cover a total 500,000 hectares.

"To sustain this program, good repayment by the irrigators associations is a must," said Amador D. Dulig, president of the National Confederation of Irrigators Associations Inc. "It is projected that after this program, the Philippines will be self-sufficient in rice and by the year 2004, a surplus will hopefully be attained," he added.

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# Asteroid as big as soccer field narrowly misses Earth

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

## Loss of Oakleys doomed Sabaya

By Christine Herrera

THE BEGINNING of the end for Abu Sabaya came after the Abu Sayyaf leader lost his amulet—a pair of Oakley sunglasses—during a firefight with

LOSS/A18

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IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Tom Hanks honored with lifetime achievement award
- Jennifer Lopez to play superheroes' shrink

HANKS

# Southcom says Sabaya dead

## *Body missing after Zambo sea battle*

By Julie S. Alipala and Hernan P. de la Cruz *PDI Mindanao Bureau*, Martin P. Marfil *in Manila*

**ZAMBOANGA CITY—A three-engine speedboat that Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya had used to seize American hostages in Palawan was the same boat that government forces used yesterday to pursue and "kill" him off the coast of Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte.**

The Philippine Navy recovered the speedboat last year in Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi, a transit point for the bandits who proceeded to Basilan from Puerto Princesa, Palawan, after seizing 20 hostages, including American couple Gracia and Martin Burnham.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, said he was sure that Sabaya was dead.

"I don't have any doubt," Carolina said. "It's just a matter of getting his body from where it sank in Sibuco."

Carolina made the declaration after American-trained Filipino soldiers clashed with seven armed men on board a speedboat at 4:20 a.m. yesterday, a kilometer off the coast of Sibuco town.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was more circumspect. "We cannot officially declare that (Sabaya is dead) because we haven't recovered the body," Reyes said.

Two other bandits were killed and four captured.

Killed were Ibno Hajar and Abu Musa. Captured were Abdurahman Ismael alias Abu Sahalin, Tommy Rahim alias Abu Nadim, Hassan Samsi alias Abu Ayub and Adzmar Aluk or Abu Adzmar.

The death of Sabaya came 14 days after Scout Rangers clashed with Sabaya's group in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte. American missionary Gracia Burnham, who suffered a gunshot wound in the thigh, was rescued but her husband Martin

SOUTHCOM/A6

ABU Sabaya, sporting his signature Oakleys, made kidnapping a multimillion-dollar business. Ironically, the Navy used the same speedboat his group had bought with ransom money paid by hostages in cornering him off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte.

## GMA, Bush rejoice; former hostages heave sigh of relief

By Carlito Pablo and Juliet Labog-Javellana

HIS was the hated and dreaded face of the enemy so that when news broke out yesterday that Abu Sabaya, the smug and loquacious spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf bandits, had been killed, a cheering chorus of relief and jubilation could be heard all the way to the United States.

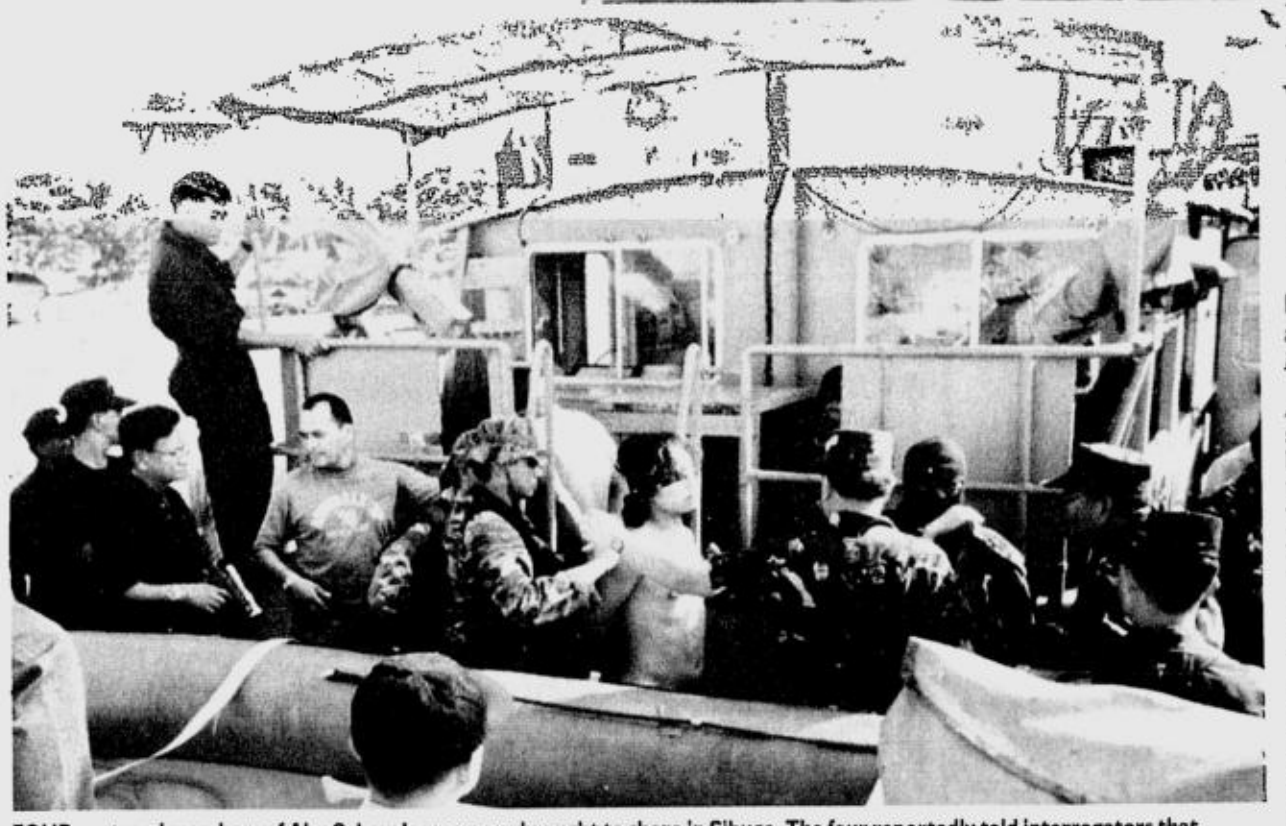
President Macapagal-Arroyo said the death of Abu Sabaya was "a victory for our soldiers and I thank them."

"They (the Abu Sayyaf) used to act like kings, now they are like rats hiding in their cubbyholes," said Ms Macapagal in a Radyo ng Bayan broadcast.

The President and military leaders have declared Abu Sabaya dead even as his remains have yet to be recovered from the sea off Zamboanga del Norte.

"Abu Sabaya was shot and killed. He fell

GMA/A6



FOUR captured members of Abu Sabaya's group are brought to shore in Sibuco. The four reportedly told interrogators that Sabaya and two others were hit and jumped overboard after they were wounded in the gunfight. DONDEE DONDOYAO

## Pa says he was playful; neighbor says a joker

By Julie S. Alipala and Nico Alconaba *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ALDAM Tilao alias Abu Sabaya, spokesperson of the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf, first grabbed the limelight in March 2000 when his group kidnapped at least 50 teachers and children in Maluso, Basilan.

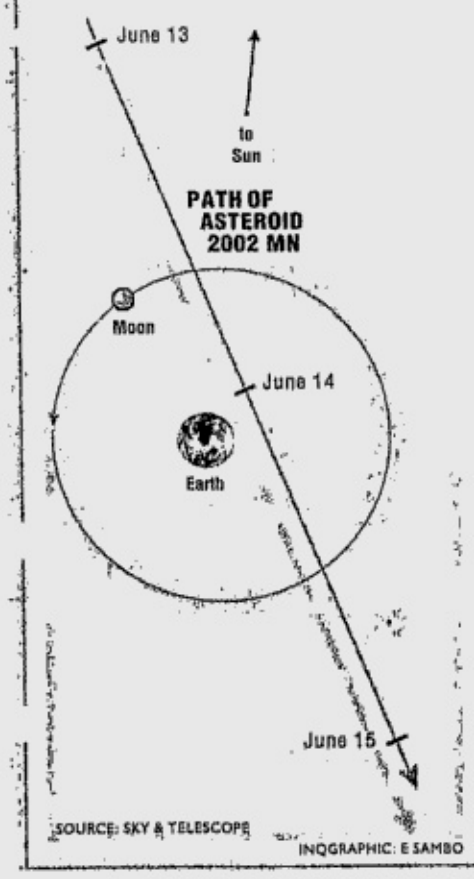
Sabaya was then the spokesperson of "camera-shy" bandit leader Khaddafy Janjalani.

The kidnapping gave the bandits, particularly Sabaya, full media coverage as none other than action star Robin Padilla went to the Abu Sayyaf's lair on Punoh Mahadji to negotiate. The crisis ended months

PA SAYS/A17

CLOSE SHAVE

## *Asteroid narrowly misses Earth*




AN ASTEROID the size of a soccer field whizzed by Earth at a distance much nearer than the Moon, the biggest such space rock in decades to get this close, scientists said on Thursday.

"In the unlikely event the asteroid had struck Earth in a populated area, it would have caused considerable loss of life," scientist Grant Stokes said.

"The energy release would have been of the magnitude of a large nuclear weapon," he said.

Stokes is the principal investigator for the Lincoln Near Earth Asteroid Research (Linear) project whose New Mexico-based observatory first spotted the asteroid.

Asteroid 2002MN was not detected until Monday, three days after its closest approach on June 14, when it got within 120,000 km of Earth and was traveling at a speed of 10 km per second, astronomers said.

It is now several million kilometers away, according to Brian Marsden of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"It was a close shave," said Marsden. "It's the largest (asteroid) we've seen at that distance in the last several de-

ASTEROID/A18

## Medals, not $1M, await Navy team

By Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

THE SOLDIERS who participated in the military operation yesterday in which the dreaded Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya was probably killed will not be entitled to the $5-million reward money that the United States is offering, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Members of the Navy's elite Special Warfare Group unit will instead receive medals and decorations as well as pensions, Ms Macapagal said.

The military would not be asking for a portion of the US reward money in any case, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said.

"The Armed Forces does not claim rewards for accomplishments during operations," Afable said.

However, the US government, which placed a $5-million price on the heads of five top Abu Sayyaf leaders, has a policy of confidentiality in its "Rewards for Justice" program.

"For the rewards system to work, it must be confidential," said US Embassy spokesperson Frank Jenista in answer to a query on whether the Filipino soldiers would be rewarded.

As for the Philippines' own reward system, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando of the military public affairs office explained that it was only meant to benefit civilian informants.

In yesterday's operation, no civilian informants were involved, Servando said.

"It was a purely military operation," he said.

MEDALS/A6

## Ecleo suitcase yields 'shabu'

By Jhunnex Napallacan, Jolene Bolambot and Kathy I. Navarro *PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. is in for more trouble.

Three small packs containing shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) were found in his luggage after he was committed to the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC).

Chief Insp. Oscar Capanas found the three packs hidden in a bar of Ivory bath soap in Ecleo's green suitcase.

The soap bar was resealed to make it appear that it had not been opened. Each pack contained about a gram of shabu.

Ecleo, "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), vehemently denied that the packs were his.

*"Planted siguro iyon kay wala man gani ko hahibawo anang sabuna. Wala man ko mogamit ana nga sabon* (The packs were apparently planted because I did not know anything about that soap. I don't use that brand of soap)," he told reporters in his cell.

His lawyer, Orlando Salatandre, said Ecleo was not the one who carried his bags when he left Camp Crame for Cebu. He added that he was not even sure if Ecleo was the one who packed his personal belongings.

Police, he added, should first trace

ECLEO/A19

# SecondFRONT PAGE

## 'SPEAKING UP'

# Revilla stays with Drilon bloc

By Rocky Nazareno

**"SPEAKING" for the first time since returning from the United States, Sen. Ramon Revilla reiterated yesterday his "loyalty and commitment" to the Macapagal administration and to the Senate leadership under Senate President Franklin Drilon.**

In a written statement, Revilla, who cannot yet speak following delicate spine surgery in Los Angeles, also appealed to the erstwhile Senate opposition to "respect the status quo prior to my departure for treatment in the US."

"There would have been no crisis in the Senate had the opposition not taken advantage of my absence," Revilla said, referring to the rise to the takeover of the majority by the former opposition when Sen. John Osmeña defected to that side on June 3.

The new majority claimed the reorganization was legal, but the administration coalition maintained it still had the numbers.

Revilla also belied reports he hastily came home after appeals by Malacañang.

"The talk was obviously fed by persons who want to embarrass President Macapagal-Arroyo and my colleagues in the administration bloc," he said.

Revilla said it was "solely my personal decision, with the full support of my family" that he returned to the Philippines.

He added, "With or without the Senate impasse, I was determined to come home at this time."

Bolstered by Revilla's return, the administration bloc caucused Thursday night at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The senators met to discuss strategy to restore order in the Senate. However, Revilla did not join them.

Sen. Ralph Recto pointed out that since the Senate, in the 12th Congress, was originally organized with a vote of 13 for the Senate leadership and the chairmanship of the committees, "the Senate cannot be reorganized with the 12 votes that the opposition has."

"It took 13 votes to organize the Senate last year. They cannot invoke 12 to unseat us," Recto said.

He nevertheless called on both the opposition and administration blocs to set aside the crisis when Congress resumes with the State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal on July 22.

"Assuming that we cannot resolve the problem by July 22, as adults and responsible leaders of the country, we should put off all debates on the Senate leadership until July 23," he said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan rapped the opposition for saying the Senate President's vote was only meant to be counted to break a tie.

"They have selective memory on how the rules are applied. They interpret the rules only when it favors them," Pangilinan said.

He noted that during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, then Senate President Aquilino Pimentel voted to open the second envelop containing details of the "Jose Velarde" account but this was not meant to break a tie.

He also recalled that Pimentel voted on a similar Senate reorganization in the 11th Congress that installed him as Senate President, ousting Drilon.

House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said yesterday the administration bloc in the Senate has regained its strength with Revilla's return.

He said the administration senators continue to hold on to their committee leaderships.

"They have not relinquished their positions," Gonzalez said.

He noted there are indications the administration bloc "remains solid" and chances are some opposition senators may switch sides. ***With Christine O. Avendaño***

**'STANDING FIRM,'** Sen Ramon Revilla with Senate President Franklin Drilon and son Bong Revilla upon arrival from the US Thursday.

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# Gloria urged to speed up revamp

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should speed up her announced decision to revamp the Cabinet to weed out under-performers and those who failed to meet the targets she set in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) last year, Rep. Prospero Pichay said yesterday.

In a press statement, the chairman of the House defense committee said it would be easy for Malacañang to track the performance of cabinet members and the heads of government agencies because the President had set down very clear policy directions and quantitative targets during the last Sona.

"We are gratified that President Macapagal-Arroyo has already began making changes in her management team, and that she has signified that there will be further changes in the coming days. Hopefully, the new appointments will come sooner rather than later, and that they will be worthy helpmates to replace the deadwood who are now dragging this government down in the eyes of the public."

Pichay lauded anew the voluntary withdrawal of Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo from their posts, just as he urged Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to step down to give the President a free hand.

Pichay called on administration detractors to be fair in their evaluation of the recent drop in the government's approval ratings. According to the polling body's own analysis, the drop was due to the power rate issue that originated in the previous administration.

"The high cost of electricity due to the sharp rise in PPA charges has resulted in a public outcry, but in fairness, the President only inherited this problem from her predecessors," he said.

Pichay said the administration had taken steps to cut power rates by reducing the PPA component charged to the public by next month, though he said the government still has to work out the implications on its budget deficit.

"By and large, this country is moving forward, and economic indicators such as GNP growth, inflation and the exchange rate are improving. The President has taken a systematic approach to governance, and she has not been afraid to make the painful decisions that, though sometimes unpopular, will in the long run mean a more stable economy and sustainable growth."

In particular, he cited Malacañang's hard-line stance against the Abu Sayyaf bandits, who he said are now neutralized.

However, Pichay expressed worries that excessive politicking may yet derail the country's progress, due to the jockeying between the administration and opposition forces. In particular, he said the current impasse in the Senate, if it remained unresolved, could hinder the effective working of government.

"The way our system works, a fractious Senate could throw a monkey-wrench on the whole process, from the passing of the budget to the approval of new officials by the Commission on Appointments. We hope this could be resolved soon."

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# *No room for complacency: Asia faces AIDS crisis*

ASIAN countries like China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines could face major epidemics of AIDS in the near future despite the relatively low incidence of the disease in the region at present, the special UN envoy on AIDS in Asia said here Friday.

Nafis Sadik told a forum here that this made it crucial for Asian nations to commit both the funds and political will to campaigns to minimize the spread of AIDS and HIV, the virus that causes the sexually-transmitted, incurable disease.

She said that while the incidence of AIDS in Asia was lower than in other regions, "the absolute numbers are quite high," due to the continent's large population.

Sadik said that in India there were 3.5 million people infected with AIDS and HIV, making it the country with the second highest number of victims in the world.

She warned that even with a low rate of infection in India, "there will be 30 to 40 million people infected in no time at all," adding the UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) considered India "an epidemic waiting to happen."

Sadik said that in South Asian countries like India and Pakistan, many believed there was less risk of infection because extramarital sex was supposedly less common.

"In theory that might be correct, but in actual practice that is not true," she said, remarking there had been cases of the disease being transmitted by travelers passing through the countryside, migrant workers and transient patrons of prostitutes.

In developing countries, most cases of AIDS infection was from sex between men and women, particularly prostitutes, she said.

China and India had recently launched national AIDS prevention programs "but what is lacking in both India and China is high-level political support and commitment," Sadik said.

Indonesia had seen an increase in AIDS in some regions and was preparing a national AIDS prevention program but, she said, had not devoted enough resources to it.

In contrast, countries like Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand with a higher incidence of AIDS, had committed both resources and political will to their AIDS prevention campaigns, Sadik remarked.

UNAIDS also singled out the Philippines because almost all forms of high-risk behavior are present in that country, such as large numbers of sex workers, migrant workers, low use of condoms and high rate of adolescent sexual activity, Sadik said.

Despite this, the amount of funds going to AIDS prevention actually declined in the Philippines, she said without giving details.

Indonesia had also seen a sharp rise in the incidence of AIDS among sex workers and their clients in some regions, Sadik remarked.

All countries with high incidence had "a lack of attention, information, access to condoms, (and) services," she said.

She said that Vietnam was an example how AIDS could explode in an Asian country, citing that in 1996 there were zero cases of HIV infection among sex workers and their clients, but in 2000 it had risen to 20 percent of all prostitutes and clients.

"There is no room for complacency," she warned.

Sadik said that a special Global Health Fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria had been set up to provide funds for AIDS prevention, but a country must first prove it is willing to commit its own funds and political resources to the effort before it would be entitled to such aid.

Figures released by UNAIDS at the forum showed that there were an estimated 7.1 million people with HIV and AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region at the end of 2001 out of a total 40 million worldwide.

An estimated 1.07 million people in the region got infected in that year alone with 435,000 deaths due to AIDS the same year. ***AFP***

# Ombudsman set to release resolution on coup raps vs Reyes et al.

By N. Bordadora

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday said that his office would release its resolution of the coup complaint filed against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and other EDSA 2 generals for the alleged mutiny that led to the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.

Desierto said that the five-man panel tasked to look into the coup complaint against Reyes, then Armed Forces chief of staff, and three other generals, had wrapped up its evaluation of the evidence of both parties in the case.

"The head of the panel informed us that the results of the evaluation and assessment of the evidence in the coup d' etat case had already been submitted," Desierto told reporters.

"We are about ready now to complete the preparation of the resolution," he added.

Aside from Reyes, other respondents in the coup complaint include retired Armed Forces chief of staff Diomedio Villanueva, then Army commander; Brig. Gen. Leo Alvez and retired General Fortunato Abat.

The complaint was filed by newspaper editors and columnists, identified with Estrada. They are Ninez Cacho Olivarez and Herman Tiu-Laurel of the Daily Tribune, and Jake Macasaet of Malaya.

The strength of the complainants' case comes from the book The Fall of Joseph Estrada by INQUIRER columnist and editorial consultant Amando Doronila. In the book, Reyes was quoted as having told his officers that they have just committed "mutiny" when they decided to withdraw support from Estrada.

"It can come anytime. But everything has been submitted for resolution and so the resolution will come out anytime. Since it's a panel of investigators, they will have to deliberate on it and then submit the final resolution for approval of the overall deputy ombudsman," Desierto said.

Desierto has already inhibited himself from the case and the approval would come from Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio.

The five-person investigating panel is headed by Deputy Ombudsman for Military Affairs Orlando Casimiro.

The panel went through the comments of the respondents as well as the pieces of evidence presented by the complainants.

"This is on the stage of evaluation that may turn into a preliminary investigation if the evidence would warrant," Desierto said.

"But in accordance with our rules, the panel opted to ask for comments from the respondents before they would resolve the issue of whether there is probable cause to warrant a formal investigation," he added.

Desierto, however, would not be part of the deliberation since he has inhibited himself. The report submitted to him regarding the conduct of the case was merely for his information.


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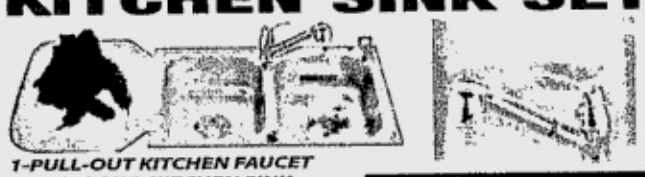
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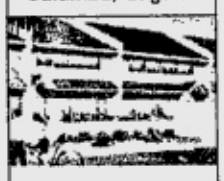
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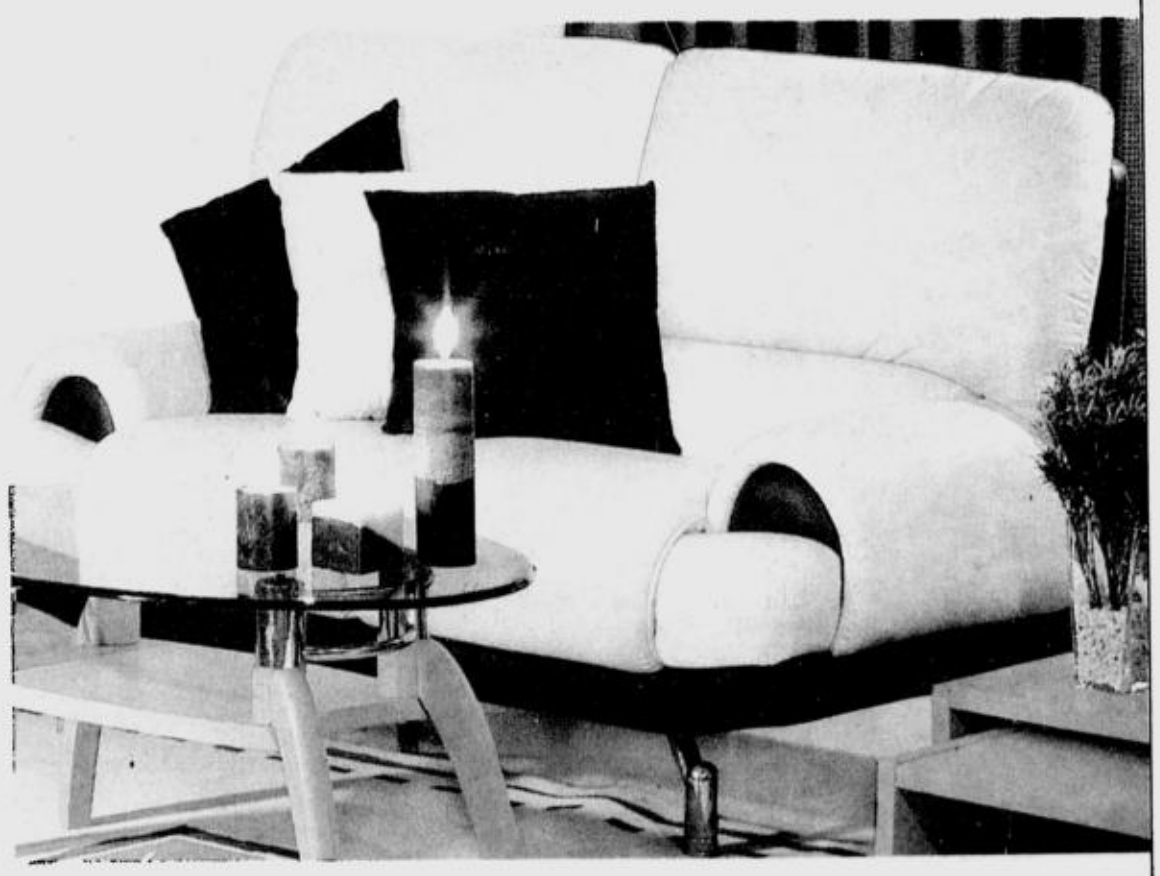

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# PPA foes lose a round as court denies TRO bid

## *Electric bills down 20% this month—Palace*

SAN FERNANDO CITY- President Macapagal-Arroyo told officials in the Ilocos region yesterday the purchased power adjustment (PPA) charge on consumers' electric bills would go down by 20 percent next month.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said the President held a closed-door meeting with members of the Regional Development Council and the Regional Peace and Order Council here on the problems of the region.

"Our electric bills will go down by 20 percent as a result of the President's directive to the National Power Corp. in May," Capco said.

"We can expect that beginning in July, electric rates would go down to P1.26 per kilowatt-hour. This is to address consumers' ire over the PPA," Capco said.

The PPA is an added charge for electricity, whether consumed or not, that is almost equal to the basic rate charged for electric service. Lowering the actual rate charged would lower the PPA.

In Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur, the President attributed her low popularity rating, as revealed by the latest Social Weather Stations survey, to the public's dismay over the rising cost of electricity. ***Peter La. Julian and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

CONSUMERS lost the latest battle in the war against the hated purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges when the Pasig regional trial court denied a petition for a temporary restraining order against its collection.

"There exists no urgent and paramount necessity for a restraining order" against the PPA, said the presiding judge, Alfredo Flores.

Flores said the PPA did not pose any "irreparable damage" to the public as consumers could always be refunded if it turned out that the PPA charges were truly excessive.

"Unless declared confiscatory or unconstitutional, (the PPA) remains valid," he said.

The judge cited a 1986 Supreme Court ruling upholding the validity of the PPA charge that was based on a formula approved by the defunct Bureau of Energy in May 1980.

He noted that the ruling paved the way for the revised PPA rates schedule and, subsequently, for the standard formula approved by the Energy Regulatory Board in three separate orders issued in 1997, 2000 and 2001.

"The authority of (Napocor and Meralco) to collect the PPA charges was settled since 1986. Hence, there exists no clear and unmistakable invasion of petitioners right vis a vis the imposition of the PPA," the ruling said.

The Abolish PPA! Coalition (Appac), an alliance of some 40 consumer-organizations led by former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, filed the petition on June 11.

Enrile, who was identified as president of the Philippine Consumers Watch Foundation, invoked the functions of the Bill of Rights as a "deterrent to any display of arbitrariness on the part of the government" or any of its agencies.

Enrile questioned the constitutionality of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which institutionalized the PPA that the Napocor and Meralco had arbitrarily passed on to consumers.

The former senator was not around when the resolution was issued.

Alain Pascua, a co-petitioner and national chair of the Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan, said the group would continue the fight against the PPA despite the court's decision.

"We are moving on to the next step, which is the application for a preliminary injunction," he said.

Meanwhile, Napocor general counsel Ranier Butalid said he was not happy with the court decision denying the TRO.

"This is not a victory for Napocor," Butalid said. "We are all on the same boat (regarding the PPA problem) and we still have a long way to go to resolve the matter."

He said the Napocor and the government were doing their best to find a way out of the PPA problem.

But Elpi Cuna, the Meralco corporate communications manager, expressed relief over the decision.

"Without the PPA, how are we going to pay the power generators who provide the supply that we distribute?" Cuna said.

The Meralco official reiterated that the utility firm was "just a collector" of the PPA.

He said the Meralco does not get to retain even a single centavo of the PPA as it goes straight to the Napocor and the other generating firms.

The court has set the next hearing for July 5.

**A PROTESTER** against the PPA burns a poster during a rally in front of the Energy Regulatory Commission. JOAN BONDOC

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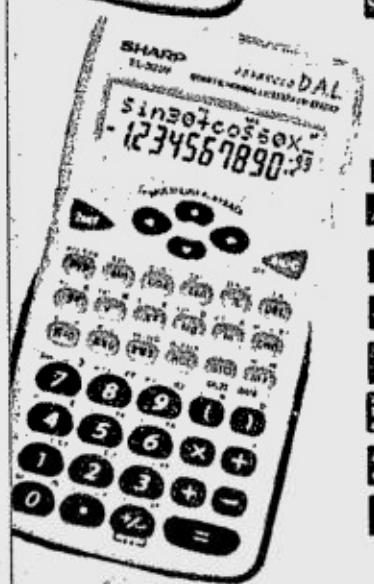

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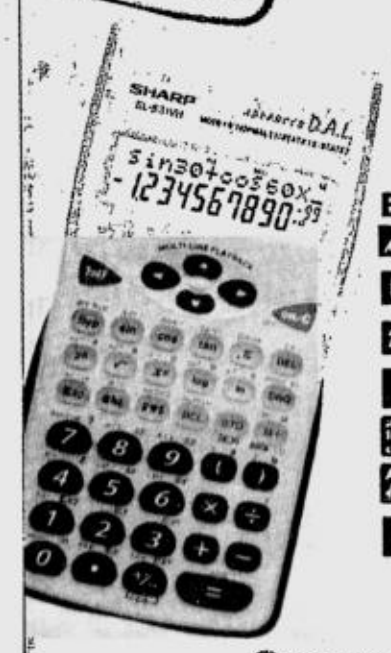

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PENTAGON LEADER'S ESCAPE

# Gloria: Fire Crame guards

**By Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo ordered yesterday the dismissal from the service of the 24 policemen from under whose noses Pentagon gang leader Faizal Marohombsar and two other kidnapping suspects escaped in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

The President gave the order to incoming police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, current head of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), from whose headquarters in Camp Crame the three walked out about 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The President also directed Ebdane to file criminal charges against the policemen.

Marohombsar confirmed in a phone call to reporters from "somewhere in Central Mindanao" that after scaling the barbed wire fence surrounding the detention facility, he took a taxi to the airport and boarded a plane for Davao City.

He said "friends" had bought the airline ticket.

When told of police claims that his was a maximum detention cell from which escape was impossible without inside help, Marohombsar said: "True, it's difficult to escape from a three-layer cell inside the vast Philippine National Police headquarters, but I made it so here I am free as bird."

As for suggestions he bribed the jail guards, Marohombsar said: "It's up to the PNP to investigate and find out what fools they are."

But, he added, nothing was impossible if one had money.

"You know what millions can do today, nothing is impossible," he said.

Back at Camp Crame, police probers zeroed in on the alleged involvement of one of the jail guards in Marohombsar's escape.

A Naktaf official said the policeman was apparently a relative of Marohombsar's and was a member of the elite Special Action Forces guarding the detention center. The source declined to identify the relative pending an investigation.

Earlier, Ebdane said he suspected an inside job in the escape of Marohombsar and kidnapping suspects Abdul Macaumpang and Rodolfo Patinio.

Ebdane confirmed yesterday that one of the jail guards was Marohombsar's relative, but he was off-duty during the escape.

Marohombsar, Macaumpang and Patinio apparently switched the padlock to their room to facilitate their escape, police said.

Macaumpang was facing charges in the kidnapping of Greek national Filippos Orfanos, while Patinio faced trial for the kidnapping of Grace Ong and in the murder of self-styled military group spokesman Baron Cervantes.

The Naktaf official also laughed off Marohombsar's claim he escaped because a police officer was torturing him and other detainees to convert to Christianity.

"That's hogwash. He was only encouraged to attend education programs and practical art sessions, like making paper baskets. He rarely attended these," the official said.

Besides, the Captain Jimenez Marohombsar claimed had tortured him was a policewoman and could not have resorted to torture, the Naktaf official added.

In an interview aired over a Cotabato City radio station, the 47-year-old Marohombsar said Jimenez had tortured him and the other detainees into joining the Jesus Christ Family Crusade.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday the NBI will join the hunt for Marohombsar and the other escapees.

"We have offered our assistance to General Ebdane. We will find out how it happened," Wycoco said.

He said the NBI was joining the manhunt on orders of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

"We are tracking them down. This is a nationwide effort," he said.

The Bureau of Immigration has also placed Marohombsar, Macaumpang and Patinio on its watchlist. ***With Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Philip C. Tubeza***

## *'I'll surrender to Barbers only'*

**By Edwin O. Fernandez and Aquiles Z. Zonio**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

COTABATO CITY—Escaped Pentagon gang leader Faizal Marohombsar said yesterday he was willing to surrender, but only through Sen. Robert Z. Barbers."I will only talk to Senator Barbers because he is the most credible senator," Marohombsar told Radio dxMS here.

Marohombsar's announcement came after police launched a massive manhunt for him and two other kidnapping suspects who bolted the high-security Naktaf detention facility in Camp Crame, Quezon City, early on Wednesday.

Lawmen have reportedly been ordered to get Marohombsar "dead or alive."

In Southern Mindanao, Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano ordered checkpoints set up after Marohombsar admitted in a phone call to reporters that he had flown to Davao City from Manila right after he escaped.

Matillano said he believes Marohombsar is still in the region.

The Central Mindanao Police Command has also been told to be on the lookout for the suspected leader of the dreaded Pentagon kidnap for ransom gang.

Sr. Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police chief, said he has mobilized police intelligence agents to track Marohombsar.

Marohombsar shot to notoriety when his gang kidnapped several employees of the Mindanao State University in Marawi City, where he used to work as a security officer, several years ago.

He was also suspected in the kidnapping of Italian priests Luciano Benedetti and Giuseppe Pierantoni.

"I have directed my men in the field to get Marohombsar dead or alive," Baluyot told reporters.

One of those going after Marohombsar is Supt. Willie Dangane, Central Mindanao Police special operations head, who had been linked to the Pentagon gang.

Dangane was cleared of allegations he was protecting the kidnap group, however, by PNP Internal Service Affairs.

In yesterday's radio interview, Marohombsar said he was set to surrender when National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) agents arrested him in Quiapo, Manila in February.

He said it was Barbers who had convinced him to yield. He said he was just waiting for the signal from Barbers to surrender when the solon had to leave for the United States to have throat surgery.

"I am pinning my hopes on Barbers. I know he can help, I am willing to change for good," Marohombsar said.

Earlier, Marohombsar had told the same radio station that a Captain Jimenez was forcing him to convert to Christianity.

"I was determined to escape because I didn't want to be 'born again'. When I got out of my cell, I was rendy to die. I waited to be shot at, but I was really surprised because nobody seem to have noticed me," he said.

JOURNALISM AWARDS

# Inquirer tops list of Ongpin finalists

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER special reports published in 2001 dominate the list of contenders for the forthcoming 13th Jaime V. Ongpin Excellence in Journalism Awards, five out of 18.

It is the first time that recognition will be given in two categories: the investigative report, and the explanatory report. Previous JVO awards had been solely for investigative reports.

"Divestment Woes: Private Water, a Matter of Life and Debt," by PDI In-Depth editor Leah Makabenta is a finalist in the new category.

In the investigative report category, PDI's entries are: "Debt Squeeze ad Ramos Legacy" by Clarissa S. Batino, "How Do You Solve a Problem like PNB?" by Elena Torrijos, "Urban Bank Story: Using Other People's Money" by Raul Dancel, and "Irene's Attempt to Move Marcos Billions Exposed Bank Records Provided by Jacobi," by Donna S. Cueto.

Over half a million in cash prizes are at stake. First prize in each category gets P70,000 plus a travel grant; second, P40,000; and third, P20,000. The remaining finalists will receive P10,000 each. All finalists also receive a plaque each.

As in previous years, the awards organizer—the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), in cooperation with the Ateneo de Manila University—will announce the finalists and winners during the Jaime V. Ongpin Journalism Seminar.

This year's event is set on June 27 at the SGV Hall, third floor, AIM Conference Center Manila, on Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legazpi Village, Makati. The seminar starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by a cocktail lunch at 12 noon.

First prize winner in the investigative category will receive the McLuhan Prize, a travel-study grant in Canada, from the Canadian Embassy. A tour of selected ASEAN capitals, funded by the Ford Foundation in cooperation with CMFR and the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), goes to the first prize winner in the explanatory report category.

The first awards were given in 1989 to honor the late Jaime V. Ongpin, finance secretary during the Corazon Aquino administration. A press freedom advocate, Ongpin was involved in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship and was instrumental in harnessing public support for the restoration of democracy in the Philippines.

The other finalists in the explanatory report category are: "10,000 Minors in Jail for Murder, Rape, etc." by Zelda de la Trinidad Soriano for The Manila Meteor; "Poor Towns, Rich Towns" by Karen M. Flores, Jeanette P. Malinao, and Mayette Q. Tabada for Sun-Star Cebu; "Power Bill: Power Para Sa Nasa Kapangyarihan?" by Marie Stella de la Cruz for Pinoy Times;

"Cement Dumping War Escalates between Philippines and Taiwan" by Des Ferriols for The Philippine Star; "Like Carlson, Most Battered Women Return to their Abusers" by Karl Kauffmann; Christine Carranza, Marian Trinidad, John Anthony Concepcion, Cheryl Arcibal and Johnna Villaviray for The Manila Times;

"The Commercial Banking System, Second Quarter 2001" by Daxim L. Lucas, Dymphna R. Calica, Leilani M. Gallardo, Eric S. Boras and Cecille E. Yap for Business World; "Cocorakot," by Aida Sevilla Mendoza for Pinoy Times; "A City Buried in Garbage: The Goliath Waiting for a David," by Ching Sales for Today; and "PCGG Magpupursige," by Vicente G. Tirol for Pinoy Times.

In the investigative report category, the finalists include: "The Lord of Makati: Can Binay Explain his Wealth?" by Miriam Grace A. Go for Newsbreak; and "Haste in Gov't Approval of IMPSA Power Project Deal" by Luz Rimban and Mike F. Leonen for Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (published in BusinessWorld, Today, The Freeman and Cebu Daily News).

SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA

# Postal exec convicted of theft

By Volt Contreras

A FORMER postal service official has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for malversation of public funds, but not before he had pulled a few tricks on authorities over a period of 11 years, including falsifying his bail bond and faking his own death.

In a decision dated June 14,2002, the Sandiganbayan's First Division found Ilajas, then postmaster of Balingasag, Misamis Oriental, guilty of embezzling office funds amounting to P27,000 in 1983.

Ilajas posted bail when first arrested. In July 1987, his lawyer notified the court of his supposed demise, presenting a Certificate of Death issued by the municipal government of Compostela, Davao del Norte.

Prosecutors verified his death with the local civil registrar of the province in November of the same year, and the case was dismissed shortly after.

But in October 1991—or four years later—the court received word from the National Bureau of Investigation that Ilajas was "still alive" and was in fact spotted in Cagayan de Oro City.

By virtue of a second warrant, Ilajas was again arrested. The court asked him to explain the "misrepresentation," referring to his faked death, but he remained silent on that aspect. And again, he managed to post bail amounting to P50,000.

In 1993, with Ilajas out of detention, the court discovered that he had falsified his second bail bond. An order was issued for him to secure a new one.

The order remains unserved, because Ilajas had given the court a "non-existent" address in Mandaluyong City, and another in Caloocan City where he was "unknown" to the neighborhood.

Last week's decision pointed to the pranks as "clear hallmarks of guilt."

Even so, and just to rub it in, Melencio Ilajas was sentenced in absentia, because he has not been found since he posted that fake bail bond more than 10 years ago.

# *Pagcor hits record take*

THE Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) yesterday announced it earned P1.81 billion in May, the highest ever in the corporation's 16-year history.

The record income is a big jump of P170 million from April's showing of P1.64 billion, Pagcor said in a press statement.

It said some P1.12 billion or 61.86 percent of P1.81 billion has been earmarked for the government and its mandated beneficiaries, including assistance to socio-civic projects for the poor of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Even more remarkable, according to Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino, is that the state-owned gaming firm's income from January to May this year reached P8.10 billion, an increase of 19 percent from the P6.78 billion generated during the same period last year.

Genuino said the corporation is confident of hitting its target of P2 billion a month in the remaining months of the year. That will mean an increase of P800 million a month in income from the previous administration's record of P1.2 billion.

"Pagcor has done the incredible by breaking all its previous income records in spite of the shattering economic turmoil that continues to characterize the global landscape today," Genuino said.

He said that Pagcor's increased revenues means more money has become available to help the President uplift the lives of the poor.

"We continue to achieve outstanding results through scientific management and humane leadership and the fantastic efforts of our highly motivated Pagcor employees," he said.

Pagcor established new records beginning March when its 13 casinos, bingo parlors and two slot machine arcades registered winnings of P1.63 billion.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Saturday, June 22, 2002**
**11th Week in Ordinary Time**
**1st Reading: 12 Chr 24:17-25**
**Gospel: Mt 6:24-34**

Jesus said to his disciples, "No one can serve two masters; for he will either hate one and love the other, or he will be loyal to the first and look down on the second. You cannot at the same time serve God and money.

This is why I tell you not to be worried about food and drink for yourself, or about clothes for your body. Is not life more important than food and is not the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, they do not harvest and do not store food in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than birds?

Can any of you add a day to your life by worrying about it? Why are you so worried about your clothes? Look at the flowers in the fields how they grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his wealth was clothed like one of these. If God so clothes the grass in the field which blooms today and is to be burned tomorrow in an oven, how much more will he clothe you? What little faith you have!

Do not worry and say: What are we going to eat? What are we going to drink? Or: what shall we wear? The pagans busy themselves with such things; but your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Set your heart first on the kingdom and justice of God and all these things will also be given to you. Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

**Commentary**

One day, a teacher observed that one of the little boys in her class was pensive and withdrawn. "What are you worried about?" she asked. "My parents," he replied. "Dad works all day to keep me clothed and fed and sent to the best school in town. And he's working overtime to be able to send me to college. Mom spends all day cooking and cleaning and ironing and shopping so I have nothing to worry about." "Why, then are you worried?" "I'm afraid they might try to escape." God the Father will not escape. Let us set our hearts first on the kingdom and justice of God and all these things will also be given to us. Liberation is the work of God throughout history. Do we have enough faith to free ourselves from so many worries?

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

## SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

**REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Cause of action**—A cause of action is an act or omission of one party the defendant in violation of the legal right of the other. The elements of a cause of action are: (1) a right in favor of the plaintiff by whatever means and under whatever law it arises or is created; (2) an obligation on the part of the named defendant to respect or not to violate such right; and (3) an act or omission on the part of such defendant in violation of the right of the plaintiff or constituting a breach of the obligation of the defendant to the plaintiff for which the latter may maintain an action for recovery of damages. A cause of action is sufficient if a valid judgment may be rendered thereon if the alleged facts were admitted or proved. In order to sustain a motion to dismiss for lack of cause of action, the complaint must show that the claim for relief does not exist, rather than that a claim has been merely defectively stated or is ambiguous, indefinite or uncertain. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Relucio V. Lopez, G.R. No. 138497, January 18, 2002] DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

# Southcom says Sabaya dead

From page A1

and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap died in the firefight.

The Abu Sayyaf seized the Burnhams from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27, 2001.

Col. Juancho Sabban, commander of the Marines Forces South, said the captured bandits confirmed that they saw Sabaya fall dead into the water.

At around 3:30 a.m., the Marines Reconnaissance Force and the Navy's Special Warfare Group (SWAG) saw a pumpboat "surreptitiously sailing" out of Barangay Parang-parang, a coastal village of Sibuco, according to Sabban.

He said the government forces trailed the pumpboat, which was made of fiberglass, for about 45 minutes to ascertain the identities of its passengers.

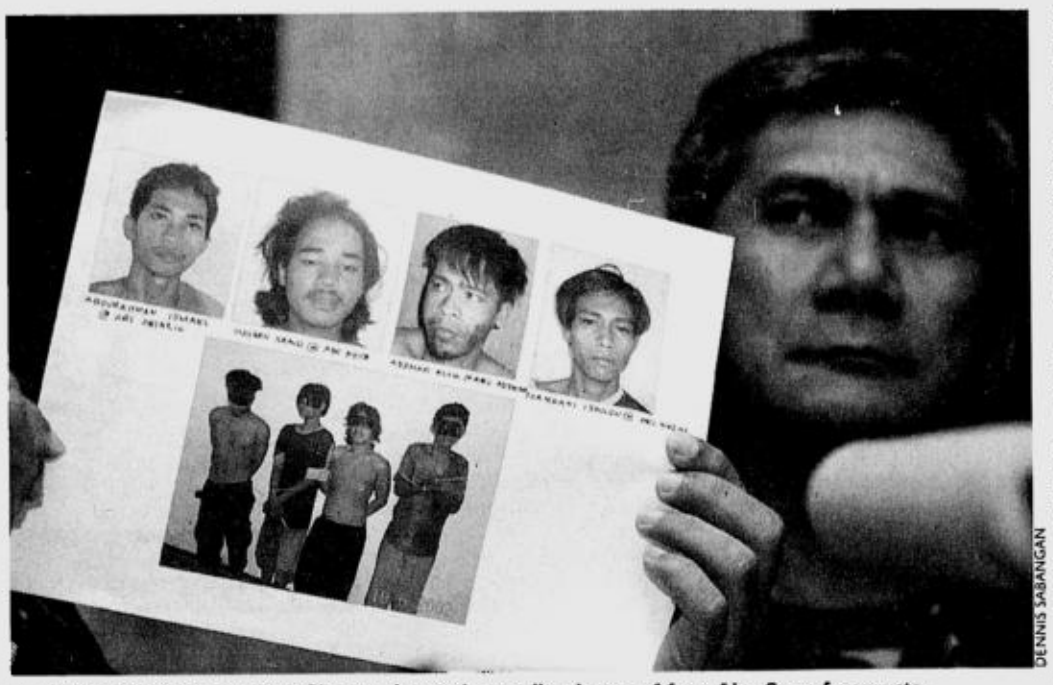
### Black shirt

Using night vision goggles, the government forces "were able to establish that there were seven armed persons, including a man in black shirt, in the vessel so they came closer."

Carolina said the pursuing troops were about 3 meters from the pumpboat when the armed men fired at them.

The official manning the boat decided to ram the pumpboat. Carolina did not identify the official but the INQUIRER learned that he was Marine Lt. Col. Ariel Querubin. The Abu Sayyaf pumpboat was reportedly powered by two "Mega" engines.

"The armed men were thrown out of their vessel," Carolina said.



DENNIS SABANGAN

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu shows the media photos of four Abu Sayyaf suspects.

Four of those who were thrown out of the pumpboat were fished out of the water alive. They reportedly confirmed during interrogation that they belonged to Sabaya's group and that the bandit leader was among those who fell dead into the sea.

But Reyes said the captured bandits had told the military that Sabaya and two others were hit and jumped overboard.

"The four confirmed that the three were with them. They were hit, they jumped overboard, so we are trying to recover them," Reyes said. "Chances are they are killed but we haven't recovered the bodies."

"But the declarations of the four and the testimonies of the members of the SWAG, which engaged this group, point to the fact that they were shot and they jumped overboard," the defense secretary reiterated.

Reyes also said that initial reports indicated that the "hits" against the three "might have been fatal" while National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said that a SWAG member confirmed that he hit a man wearing a black shirt.

Sabaya was wearing a black shirt when the firefight started.

Carolina said it was not easy to recover the bodies of Sabaya and those of the other slain bandits because the waters in the area where the encounter occurred were about 1,500 feet deep.

Recovered from the scene of the encounter were two rifles, an M16 and an M14, a pair of sunglasses, a bonnet and a satellite phone, according to a source. Some of the recovered items were owned by Abu Sabaya.

### US role

Reyes said the operation was the product of cooperation between Filipino and American soldiers involved in Balikatan 02-1.

But he said the combat operation was conducted entirely by Filipino soldiers.

"This successful operation could be attributed to the joint efforts of the soldiers with the participation of the American forces and of course with the prayers of everybody," Reyes said.

Maj. Richard Sater, a spokesperson for US forces conducting a counterterrorism training exercise aimed at helping local troops wipe out the Abu Sayyaf, called the report of Sabaya's death "a step forward in the war against terrorism."

He said Americans provided unspecified support during the clash but were not directly involved in the fighting.

"We're here to advise and assist. We helped out in that capacity this morning, providing some surveillance and communication, that sort of thing," Sater said. Asked if Americans were nearby, Sater said: "Yes, but I can't say how near."

Some 1,000 Americans are training Filipino soldiers in Basilan and Zamboanga City.

Carolina said Sabaya's death was one of the major accomplishments of the military's "Operation Daybreak."

On June 7, soldiers pursuing Sabaya's group, which fled to Zamboanga del Norte from Basilan, clashed with the bandits at the Sipawa Complex in Sirawai town.

During that encounter, four bandits and two hostages were killed. Sabaya and 10 other bandits managed to slip. Troops found Sabaya's sunglasses and backpack.

Carolina said troops followed the Abu Sayyaf footprints to a coastal village. "We knew that for him to survive, he will make a run for the sea," he said.

"Tracking showed that they were going southward crossing Barangay Piakan down to the river of Anongan. It was already positive that they were heading toward the coastline," Carolina said.

This information prompted the Armed Forces to deploy the Marines and the Navy along the coastlines of the province, according to Carolina.

Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, said Sabaya's death served as an inspiration to the military in stomping out the bandit group.

### In high spirits

"Our soldiers were very, very happy and in high spirits. They even called their relatives and families informing them of their accomplishment," Cimatu said.

Reyes said that was no cause for celebration yet.

"I don't think we should start celebrating yet. The terrorist threat remains and we should always remain vigilant. The worse thing that can happen is when we become complacent and surprised when another terrorist attack occurs," Reyes said at a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

Carolina said the purpose of "Operation Daybreak" had been served.

But he quickly added that a similar operation was in the works.

The military is planning "Oplan Rescuer" to neutralize Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani, Isnilon Hapilon, Jainal Antel Sali Jr. alias Abu Sulaiman and Hamsiraji Sali.

Sali holds three Indonesian hostages and is believed to be hiding in Barangay Lahing-lahing in Luuk, Sulu.

# Medals, not $1M, await Navy team

From page A1

The government had earlier offered a P5-million reward for information leading to the capture or death of Sabaya.

### Golez reward

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, however, has decided to put up a P100,000 reward using money from his own pocket—if Sabaya is proven dead.

Golez said P50,000 would go to the one who shot Sabaya and another P50,000 to whoever successfully retrieves the bandit leader's dead body.

Golez said a member of the elite Navy unit which had intercepted the boat bearing Sabaya and six of his men, was sure that he was able to hit Sabaya.

He did not identify the SWAG commando who stands to be P50,000 richer.

Sabaya and two other bandits, all of whom were reportedly wounded, jumped into the sea during the firefight.

In a message over the state-run Radyo ng Bayan last night, the President asked the public for greater understanding as the military pressed on with the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf.

She also thanked the residents of Basilan, Sulu and Zamboanga del Norte for helping the military, and the Filipino people for their "patience."

Jenista said the US Embassy was still receiving mixed reports regarding the death of Sabaya but said his government was already "very pleased" with the recent developments in the war against terrorism in the Philippines.

"We are glad that the campaign against terrorism is working," Jenista said in a telephone interview. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Dona Pazzibugan***

# GMA, Bush rejoice; ex-hostages heave sigh of relief

From page A1

into the sea and drowned," Ms Macapagal told the ABS-CBN's TV Patrol.

She said the killing of Abu Sabaya meant that the government had been right in pursuing a "no-ransom, no-negotiation" policy against terrorism.

The President said the government would not stop the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf even if their numbers had now dwindled.

She said Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani was still in the country contrary to reports that he was already in Sabah, Malaysia, and was still being hunted by government troops.

Ms Macapagal said US President George Bush had "expressed happiness" that the notorious Aldam Tilao, known by his nom de guerre of Abu Sabaya, had been slain in a clash at dawn with an elite Navy unit in the waters off Zamboanga del Norte yesterday.

The President interrupted a meeting of the Ilocos Regional Development Center to announce Bush's reported reaction.

"He's happy that the Abu Sayyaf problem has been solved," Ms Macapagal said of Bush who apparently relayed the message through US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

But for the former hostages who suffered the most from the Abu Sayyaf depredations, the news was received with a mixture of jubilation, surprise and skepticism.

### 'Animal is dead'

"It's good to know that that animal is dead. I want to see his body so I can kick it," said Ma. Fe Rosadeno, who was kidnapped with her American fiancé, Guillermo Sobero, from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan a year ago.

The Abu Sayyaf beheaded Sobero and presented the feat as a grisly Independence Day gift to the President.

Rosadeno could not quite believe the news when the INQUIRER reached her by phone in Palawan early yesterday.

"I am happy if it's true. It will help to solve the problem. That is one horn of the Abu Sayyaf broken," she said.

**PRESIDENT Macapagal: They acted like kings before; now they are like rats hiding in their cubbyholes.** VAL HANDUMON

Rosadeno said Sabaya's death was "payment for Sobero."

She described Sabaya, whom she said she hated, as "being brave only in his words but when it came to fighting, he was the first to run away even before the hostages."

But Sabaya was feared, she said, because he claimed to be educated, with an engineering degree.

"Is he really dead?" asked Angie Montealegre, another one of those abducted from Dos Palmas.

Montealegre, who was in Bukidnon with the New Tribes Mission, had informed Rosadeno by text early yesterday morning with news of Sabaya's death.

### At peace

"At least I will now be at peace," Montealegre told Rosadeno.

But Raul "Buddy" Recio, Montealegre's brother-in-law and another former hostage, was skeptical.

"It's good if it's true. But we have to see his body to be certain that he is really dead," Recio said.

Recio said the Abu Sayyaf hostages, especially the nurses who were abducted from the Lamitan hospital, should be allowed to view the dead body of Sabaya so that they can make the confirmation.

"We cannot rely on the word of the military," he said. "How many times has the military reported that Abu Sabaya and (Khadaffy) Janjalani were dead?"

Rosadeno is also eager to see Sabaya, dead or alive.

Recio said he was willing to volunteer to identify the body but would do so only in Zamboanga. He said he would never go back to Basilan.

But he warned that Sabaya's death would not spell the end of the Abu Sayyaf.

"No way. Sabaya is just the spokesman, he is not the leader," Recio said.

According to Recio, Janjalani was the Abu Sayyaf's leader, with Jose Ramirez being groomed as "second emir." He said Isnilon Hapilon was doing the recruiting of members and Abu Solayman was in charge of the hostages.

### Justice obtained

"These are the ones that should be captured," Recio said.

In the United States, the parents of Martin Burnham, the American hostage who was killed in a bloody rescue attempt last month, said their son had "finally obtained justice," the GMA "Saksi" television program reported yesterday.

The Burnhams, who had served as missionaries in the Philippines for almost two decades, were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary when they were abducted from the Dos Palmas Resort. Gracia, Burnham's wife, survived the rescue attempt with a leg wound.

In Basilan, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, one of those hostaged in Lamitan last year, told GMA television: "We are happy. Who would want Abu Sabaya to remain alive?"

House leaders yesterday said the death of Abu Sabaya was not unexpected.

### 'Dying by gun'

It was a case of "one who lives by the gun dying by the gun," said Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said that he could only hope that no one would assume the leadership of the bandit group with the death of Sabaya.

He hoped Sabaya's death would mean the disbanding of the Abu Sayyaf, he said.

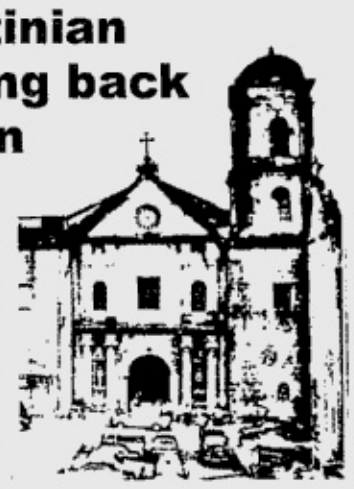
"Otherwise, we would only be announcing the death of a member of the Abu Sayyaf," Gonzales said in a phone interview.

Sen. Manny Villar commended the soldiers for "their tireless efforts against terrorism and violence."

"No time should be wasted in ensuring the total and complete annihilation of these bandits in order that they will no longer be a nuisance to the country," the senator said in a statement.

He said the military should keep up the pressure and not "let go of this opportunity to once and for all neutralize the Abu Sayyaf."


## The Augustinian Fathers bring back old tradition



If you visit the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila, you cannot help but notice the tombstones that are lined along the church's main entrance. What makes it even more interesting is the fact that the tombstones bear prominent names of the members of high society. You will even be amazed to see that these tombstones date back as far as the early 1800s.

During the Spanish period, the Augustinian fathers allowed the burying of bodies within the church premises which is considered the highest honor one can give a departed member of the family. Indeed, the fact that the remains are inside the church gives the feeling that the departed loved one is within a spiritual haven.

In those days, only the wealthy and prominent can give their dead this dignified burial.This privilege is accorded to the family in exchange for a hefty donation, e.g. a golden crown for one of the saints or an altar in the church, etc.

Among the prominent names seen on these tombstones are Roxas, Garcia, Arenas, etc. One of the wings of the San Agustin church even serves as a mausoleum for the Ayalas, Zobels and Sorianos.

Another distinct resident of the San Agustin Church is the great Filipino painter Juan Luna known for his masterpiece The Spoliarium, which won in the Paris Exposition in the late 1800s.

Today, the Augustinian fathers bring back to life this honorable tradition of burying the dead within the church premises with the establishment of The Columbary.

Located in the heart of Quezon City, along Visayas Ave.. The Columbary stands as a sanctuary where one can honor a departed loved one. The Columbary is a spiritual haven that will serve as a depository of the ash of the cremated body. It is housed within the compound of the San Agustin Seminary and it stands within the Chapel of the Santo Nino de Cebu. A lush garden surrounds the columbary vaults making it a very tranquil monument for a dearly departed loved one.

But unlike in the olden days, one will not have to make a hefty donation like a golden crown for a saint to honor a dearly departed. For as low as P2,687.00 downpayment, one can own a columbary vault.

**To know more about this new Augustinian establishment, visit The Columbary at Fisheries St., Visayas Avenue Quezon City. You can also call 425-15-09; 753-25-32; 753-25-33 for more information.**

## NEWSBRIEFS

**HANGAD ACAPELLA**

**Members of Hangad, one of the groups singing under the banner of the Jesuit Music Ministry of the Jesuit Communications Foundation, will perform at 3 p.m. tomorrow at the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies at the Ateneo campus in Quezon City. "Hangad Acapella," the group's second album, is a celebration of voices, music, friendship and prayer. The group, which has been together for 10 years, started as a group of students drawn together by friendship and love for music.**

### US expert on Parkinson's

A MOVEMENT disorders specialist from the United States, Dr. Virgilio Gerald Evidente, will hold a lecture on the latest medical and surgical updates on Parkinson's disease, tremor and dystonia before the Parkinson's Support Group of the Philippines (PSGP) Foundation tomorrow.

Attendance to the PSGP meeting is free and open to the public. The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. at the auditorium of the Cathedral Heights Building Complex (CHBC) South Tower of St. Luke's Medical Center.

For inquiries, call the Movement Disorders Center at 723-0301 local 3101 or 727-5552.

### 'On Fire' on stage

ALL roads lead to the AFP Amphitheater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City tonight for the much-awaited 'On Fire' concert organized by the Philippine National Police Officers' Ladies Club (PNPOLC).

Three months in the making, the benefit show features some of the country's top policemen, their spouses and their dependents in a rare public display of their heretofore unknown, skills and talents in entertainment.

For two hours, they will perform contemporary hits and Christian inspirational music. In an added attraction, PNP spouses take to the catwalk while noted violinist John Lesaca and Fr. Jing Barrett will make a special guest performance.

The concert revolves on the theme 'One, Holy, Happy PNP Family' to underscore the desire of the men and women of the police agency to be firmly united and morally upright to be able to better serve the country and their family.

It is one of several fund-raising activities of PNPOLC, a 72-year-old ladies club currently headed by Mrs. Fim Velasco, wife of PNP deputy director and director for comptrollership, Rey Velasco.

The show will also serve as a farewell tribute to club adviser Sol Mendoza and her husband, PNP chief Director Leandro Mendoza, who will be leaving the top PNP post to serve as Secretary of Transportation and Communication.

Proceeds of the concert will go to finance various socio-civic projects of the PNPOLC meant to address the health and educational needs of PNP officers and their dependents and to fund their livelihood activities.

### Search for top cops on

IN A BID to recognize, commend and highlight the achievements of deserving police personnel, the National Police Commission (Napolcom) launches the nationwide search for outstanding police non-commissioned officer (PO1 to SPO4) at 9 a.m. on Monday at the Napolcom Multi-Purpose Hall in Makati City.

The search also aims to encourage non-commissioned police officers to do their task not only to win the search but also to regain the trust and confidence of the public toward the Philippine National Police.

# Namfrel on Comelec: Wait till the honeymoon is over

By Blanche S. Rivera

WAIT till the honeymoon is over.

The National Movement for Free Elections remains unconvinced about the peace that has apparently reigned over the Commission on Elections since new chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. came in.

Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz yesterday said the much-publicized harmony had not been tested.

"They haven't hit the contentious issues yet; that's why it looks like there's peace (in the commission)," Luz said in a phone interview.

Once the commissioners, including Abalos, sat down to discuss automation, appointment of officers, liquidation and accountability for unfinished projects, and the Voters Registration and Identification System, Luz said, "expect the united front to break."

The Namfrel said in a statement earlier that it was "only a matter of time" before the commissioners faced the problems that had previously split up the poll body.

Namfrel representatives are set to have a breakfast meeting with Abalos today to discuss the modernization projects and other problems of the Comelec.

Luz said the Namfrel would present to Abalos "quality information" to prove that Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco was unfit to sit in the modernization committee.

Abalos reappointed Tancangco to the committee early this week. She was fired from that post by former Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo for her failure to automate the 2001 polls.

While conceding that it was Abalos' call, Luz said the Comelec chief should listen to all information relevant to Tancangco's case. Besides, Luz said, "We (at Namfrel) would not be fulfilling our responsibility if we don't speak our minds."

The Namfrel is initiating impeachment proceedings against Tancangco upon the resumption of Congress.

Luz also disagreed with Abalos' position barring outsiders from getting involved in the Comelec modernization program until after the modernization committee now composed of Commissioners Tancangco, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. finished a "thorough study."

# Cops' promotion on hold until July 30

By TJ Burgonio

ROUTINE promotion for at least 15,000 police officers, which would have taken place this month, will have to wait until July 30.

This is because of the Commission on Elections ban on the movement of government personnel, in connection with the July 15 synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, officials said yesterday. Promotions for policemen usually took place in June.

"But promotions this year will most likely take effect after the ban is lifted," police spokesperson Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit said in an interview, referring to the 60-day election ban which took effect May 30 and lasts until end of July.

Current records show 15,304 vacancies in the ranks, from police officer 2 to superintendent (lieutenant colonel). There are 388 slots for superintendent; 784 for chief inspector; 997 for senior inspector; 982 for inspector; 2,093 for SPO4; 3,851 for SPO3; 4,071 for SPO2; 285 for PO3 and 1,853 for PO2. There are no vacancies for SPO1.

Majority of the promotion boards, which make the recommendations, have submitted their lists, Maralit said.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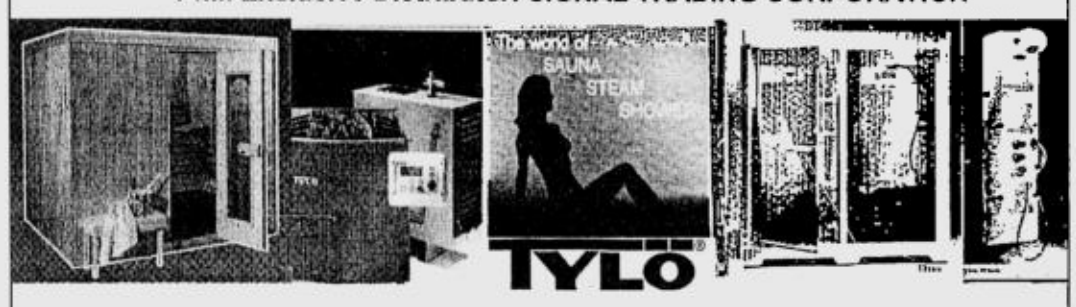


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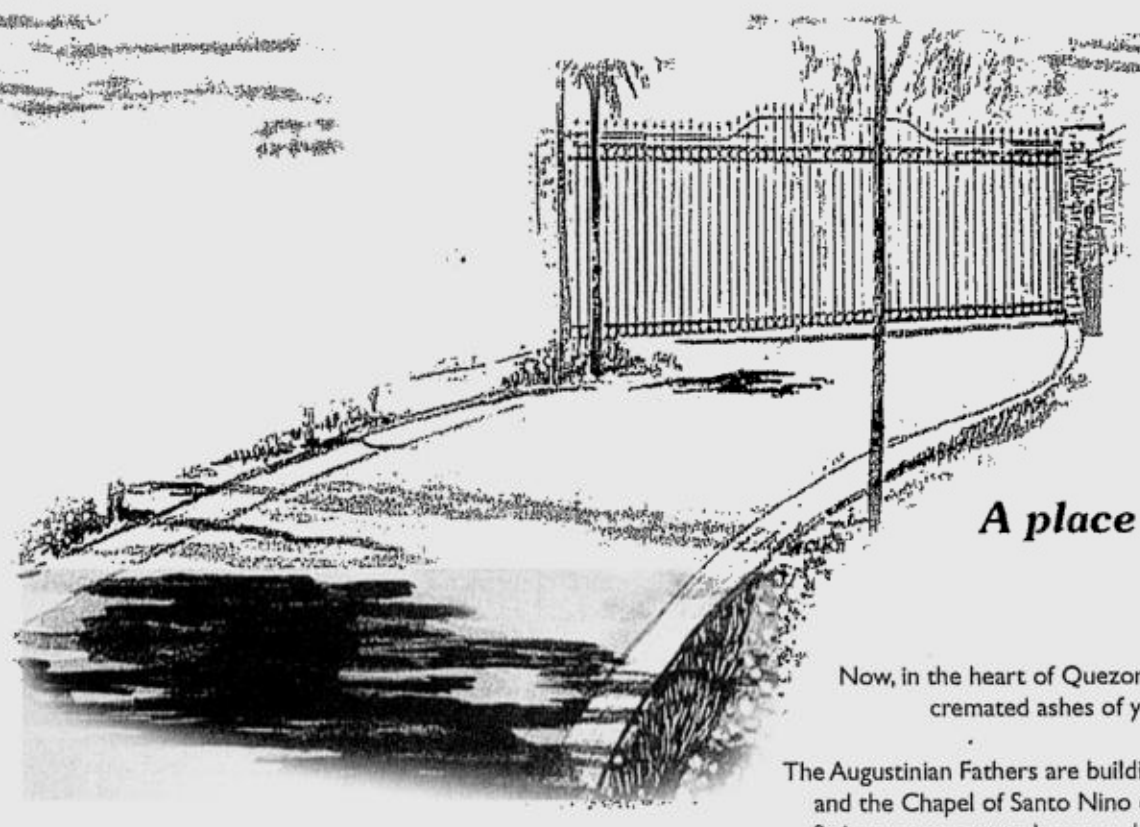

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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# OPINION

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## Counter-coup

**EDITORIAL**

NOW that Sen. Ramon Revilla is back in Manila, the Senate balance of power stands at an absolute deadlock, with 12 senators aligned with the administration and 12 for the opposition. This changes the equation that developed after June 3, when the opposition moved to reorganize the Senate committees with a "majority" of 12 members arising from Revilla's absence (he was in the United States for medical treatment).

With this balance, the Senate standoff has become even more complicated and possibly more intractable. Between now and July 22, when Congress resumes session, the administration coalition and the opposition have to make sure that, first, no one gets sick; and, second, no one makes a trip abroad. Sen. Edgardo Angara's troops had better be aware that they could get a dose of their own medicine if a single body is missing in a new headcount. If they staged a coup in Revilla's absence, the other side can play the same game.

The deadlock, however, calls attention to the urgency of breaking it before July 22, either by political or judicial means, and establishing a new majority coalition with a broader base that can withstand any coup attempt brought about by the first sign of absenteeism or serious health problems on the part of senators, some of whom are not too healthy.

The first option is less politically devastating than a challenge in the Supreme Court on the issue of what constitutes a majority to do business in the Senate such as reorganizing the committees or changing its leadership. It is within the means of the administration to break the deadlock. On the other hand, a test at the Supreme Court could be a lengthy process that could drag on after July 22 and paralyze Congress.

The nation cannot afford such a prolonged gridlock. Paralysis could plunge the nation into a constitutional crisis. Two constitutional crises within two years could be an overload to the political system and lead to a breakdown. It does not look good for the Senate that the crisis of the Estrada presidency came to a head over events centered on the Senate during his impeachment trial.

The Senate impasse is a problem that tests the leadership of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo more than it damns the members of that body. No fundamental issue involving the national agenda or policy was at the heart of the opposition coup. It was a power grab for control of the Senate and its committees. Regardless of what Angara says to denounce presidential intervention, political reality and tradition are consistent with interventionism. In the history of leadership upheavals in the Senate, one can hardly cite a single instance in which the president did not intervene to get a majority—the only way to get things done in the legislature.

In previous upheavals, presidents, not least President Diosdado Macapagal, the incumbent's father, raided opposition members to form a majority alliance. The younger Macapagal can do no less. There's evidence she is moving to lure two or three members of the opposition coalition to switch to the administration coalition through the use of patronage and other forms of persuasion allowed by the unwritten rules of the political game. She has patronage resources that Angara or any opposition leader does not have. They can only offer a pie in the sky based on a promise of a better deal after a change in Senate leadership.

When politicians take sides in a political system where loyalties are not defined and disciplined by policy or ideology, pragmatism determines the switch. In the context of this dynamic, the chances of augmenting the administration's coalition looks more promising than a swing to the opposition. There is disquiet among the pro-administration senators that the President is not moving hard enough to deplete the opposition ranks. It would be disastrous if she did not use the resources available to her as hidden persuaders to engineer a counter-coup and relieve her beleaguered Senate allies.

If the opposition succeeds in maintaining the deadlock or in raiding the administration coalition's ranks, that would be a powerful indictment of her leadership. It would mean that she is inept in using the tools and resources of the presidency to defend her majority alliance. The easiest way for her alliance to crumble is to allow the opposition to capture some of her allies.

## Mel Lopez and speedy justice

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

I HAD a chat the other day with Mel Lopez, who gave me a copy of the resolution of the Sandiganbayan granting his motion to dismiss the criminal case filed against him by the Ombudsman. The charge was that, to the prejudice of the government, he had illegally ordered the closure of two casinos being operated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. in the City of Manila.

The information was filed against Lopez in 1991, when he was still mayor of Manila. In September of that year, he moved for the reinvestigation of the case by the Office of the Ombudsman. The Sandiganbayan granted the motion on Oct. 3, 1991 and directed the completion of the reinvestigation within 30 days from receipt of the order. Meanwhile, further proceedings in the case were suspended.

After almost eight years from that date, the reinvestigation had not yet been completed (or begun?). On Feb. 23, 1999, the Sandiganbayan *motu proprio*, or on its own initiative, issued an order directing the Ombudsman to show cause why the case should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute.

In her Compliance, the special prosecutor handling the case submitted that it had not been officially assigned to her and that she had merely appeared to oppose certain motions of the accused to travel abroad. She was not familiar with the case and learned of the pending reinvestigation only after discussing it with a colleague to whom it had been originally assigned.

She also contended that the accused himself caused the delay when he claimed that a pending civil case involving the same issue raised a prejudicial question that had to be decided first before the criminal case could proceed. Lopez, she said, had failed to inform the prosecution about the outcome of that case.

On April 5, 1999, the accused filed his motion to dismiss based on the failure of the prosecution to finish the reinvestigation within 30 days as ordered by the Sandiganbayan in 1991. That was eight years ago. During all that time, he said, the reinvestigation remained pending despite the deadline fixed by the court.

The Sandiganbayan ruled that its order for the reinvestigation of the case was not addressed to any particular prosecutor but to the Office of the Special Prosecutor, which had the collective responsibility to perform the assigned task.

It also held that the prosecution should have moved for an extension of the 30-day period before its expiration if it needed more time. Despite the accused's failure to inform it of the outcome of the civil case, the prosecution should have proceeded with the reinvestigation to determine whether there was probable cause against Lopez.

The Sandiganbayan observed that as of the date of its decision on June 14, 2002, the reinvestigation it had ordered had not yet been finished, not even within the extended period the prosecution had requested. "More than ten (10) long years have elapsed from October 3, 1991 since this case was ordered reinvestigated."

Accordingly, with Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro as *ponente* and Justices Anacleto D. Badoy Jr. and Nicomedes T. Ferrer concurring, the Sandiganbayan granted the accused's motion and ordered the case dismissed. It also canceled the bail bond posted by Lopez and lifted the hold-departure order against him.

The resolution was in keeping with the constitutional mandate for the speedy disposition of cases as well as the right of the accused to a speedy trial. Courts and the Constitutional Commission are subject to deadlines in the rendition of their decisions. The general guaranty in the Bill of Rights is that "all persons shall have the right to the speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative bodies."

A speedy trial has been defined as "one free from vexatious, capricious and oppressive delays." The delay in the Lopez case was not flawed by any of these vices but by mere *inaction*. In the landmark case of Conde v. Rivera, 45 Phil. 650, a midwife made "to dance attendance on courts" for only one year was relieved of all the criminal charges against her. In Flores v. People, 61 SCRA 331, the accused were prosecuted in 1951 and were finally discharged in 1974—after all of 23 years—for violation of their right to a speedy trial.

During the 10 years his reinvestigation was pending, Mel Lopez suffered the anxiety and worry of a person accused of a crime, besides being hampered from going abroad because of the hold-departure order. These are inconveniences he did not have to endure, considering the merits (or lack of them) of the charge against him. He was accused of graft when, as mayor, he closed two Pagcor casinos in Manila illegally located within 200 hundred meters from the school zone.

As a native son of Manila, my Manila, where Mayor Mel Lopez served with distinction as its assemblyman and later its mayor, I am happy to rejoice with him over the dismissal by the Sandiganbayan of the absurd charge against him. He is a worthy member of that vanishing breed of exemplary public officials, and I am proud to be his friend.

## Cold comfort for GMA

**GET REAL**

*Solita Collas-Monsod*

"PLUMMETED" is the appropriate word for what happened to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's NSR (net satisfaction rating—the percentage of respondents who are satisfied with her performance minus the percentage of those who are dissatisfied). Her NSR dropped from 16 in March this year to 4 in June. But the President and her supporters can derive some comfort, cold as it may be, from the experience of her three immediate predecessors, as recorded in the Social Weather Stations website.

One source of comfort is that they all fell from grace, so to speak, at some point in their terms. Ms Macapagal's fall, in fact, is not as bad as some of the others'.

Cory Aquino's NSR, for example, dropped from 37 in April 1990 to 7 in November of the same year—a steeper "plummet" than Ms Macapagal's, whether it is measured in absolute terms (a 30 percentage-point drop versus GMA's 12) or in relative terms (a decrease of 81 percent versus GMA's 75 percent).

These figures, by the way, are not completely comparable, because Aquino's NSR drop took place over a period of seven months, while GMA's happened over a shorter period of three months. To take these into account, we can get a simple monthly average of the decrease in satisfaction—which would then show that Aquino's satisfaction fell by 4.28 percentage points and 11.6 percent a month while GMA's fell by 4 percentage points and 25 percent a month.

The public's relative disenchantment with Fidel Ramos occurred between June and October of 1995, when his NSR dropped from 26 to 1—an absolute decrease of 25 percentage points and a relative decrease of 96 percent. Using a monthly average basis for comparability, Ramos' NSR decreased by 6.25 percentage points and 24 percent a month.

Then we have Joseph Estrada, whose largest drop in satisfaction ratings occurred between October and December 1999: from 28 to 5 within two months, or a monthly average decrease of 11.5 percentage points and 41 percent.

Another consolation that GMA and her supporters can derive from the SWS data is that her lowest NSR rating (so far)—4—while nearly the same as Estrada's lowest (5) and lower than Aquino's (7) is better than Ramos' record (1).

And the biggest consolation that GMA can derive is that it is not the end of the world as far as any political ambitions of hers are concerned. Because judging from what happened to her predecessors, it is possible for her ratings to go up relatively quickly. Four months after Aquino's NSR dropped to 7, it was back up to 24. It took Ramos a little longer to recover, moving up from 1 to 17 in six months. Even Estrada did it, going from 5 to 13, although it took seven months to do it.

However, while the data yield some consoling information, they also reveal disturbing ones, at least insofar as President Macapagal and her advocates are concerned.

The first is that she has as yet been unable to capture the imagination or the enthusiasm of the people the way her three predecessors seem to have done. Aquino started with an NSR of 53, and at her peak obtained a 72—higher than anything either Ramos or Estrada ever attained, by the way. Ramos started with a 66 (his highest was a 69); Estrada started with a 60 (with a high of 67). GMA, in startling contrast, started with a 24—and her highest NSR so far is a 27.

The second is that her predecessors invariably ended their terms with much lower NSRs than what they started with. Even if we look at how they stood after three years (which is what GMA will have finished when she faces the electorate once again), the decline in the public's satisfaction is still obvious. Aquino at mid-term had an NSR of 37 and ended her term with a 7. Ramos' mid-term NSR was 26, and he had an end-term rating of 19. Estrada never even made it to his mid-term, but just before he was replaced, his NSR had gone down to 9. Thus, the President, if previous experience is any indication, will be facing a reelection campaign with a low NSR, effectively going into battle with one hand tied behind her back.

So now her work is cut out for her: how to recover from her fall from grace and/or how to capture the people's imagination, preferably both rather than the either-or-scenario.

But one thing is equally clear: Not only the way she is choosing people for her team, but also the way she is taking them out, isn't going to get her any closer to her goal.

That appointment of Ben Abalos as Comelec chair was met with puzzlement, to say the least. Leandro Mendoza as transportation secretary may have made sense to her, but not to the public. Putting Dante Liban as head of Tesda, an agency which is increasingly recognized as being crucial to the success of the country's efforts at improving its competitiveness in a globalized world, caused a lot of head-shaking. Add the Revilla and Dinglasan appointments to the VRB and the MTRCB, respectively, as non-starters. The only appointment which was applauded almost universally, was that of Bayani Fernando as MMDA chair—a success rate of one in six. Too low.

And the manner by which their predecessors were removed—Anding Roces makes no bones about the fact that he read of his replacement in the papers—although presumably not her fault but that of her acting executive secretary—has not won her any brownie points either.

So far what she is doing may be winning her some friends—but it certainly isn't going to influence most of the people to support her.

# Brown Sandoval: I'm not into commercial fishing

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

SENATORS Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel, both former Senate presidents and top-notch lawyers, startled many citizens recently when they opined that even with the return of Sen. Ramon Revilla, things would remain in the opposition's favor. This is because, Angara was quoted as opining, "we will be 12 and they will be 11 (since) Senate President (Franklin Drilon) cannot vote."

Pimentel, on the other hand, when asked the same question by broadcaster Arlyn de la Cruz on Channel 25 last Thursday, opined that things would remain the same since "*mukhang hindi pwedeng bomoto ang* Senate president." Both Angara and Pimentel said the Senate chief can only vote in case of a tie. They were both vague about the occasion for voting, but whether it is to install a new chief or simply to pass a bill, it's evident that they were being grossly inaccurate in asserting that the Senate chief can only vote in a tie. What bothers many citizens is that the two senators certainly knew they were wrong, as the many examples from legislative history are too recent to forget, but still they persisted in sustaining this falsehood. It's a disservice to the citizens who should learn from our leaders.

* * *

**Certainly, Angara and Pimentel voted on many issues when they headed the chamber. In the fight for the Senate presidency last July 2001, for instance, Pimentel, then head of the chamber, voted for his rival Drilon who, in turn, voted for him in the traditional exchange of votes. The final vote was 13-11 in favor of Drilon's group, far from being a tie. But this setup was altered with Sen. John Osmeña's recent defection to the opposition.**

**The classic vote for Pimentel came during the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, when he cast his vote with the anti-Estrada senators in favor of opening the second envelope. On the other hand, Angara as Senate chief voted on SB 2262 resetting the elections for Muslim Mindanao where again there was no tie. The first post-Edsa Senate president, Jovito Salonga, is remembered, among other things, for casting his vote among the "Magnificent 12" against the retention of the US bases here in 1991.**

**Senate Rule 116 is very clear: "The President shall not be obliged to vote except when his vote is decisive." But as Drilon put it, interpreting this rule to mean that the Senate president cannot vote except in case of a tie is "a gross misreading" of it. Clearly, he stressed, nothing under the Senate rules prevents the Senate president from exercising his right to vote, whether there is a tie or not. As everyone knows, the only instance when the Senate president can cast his vote in case of a tie is during the plenary session of the Commission on Appointments, over which he presides. The CA is composed of 12 senators and 12 representatives, and the Senate chief, as the presiding officer, can break a deadlock as the 25th member.**

* * *

Some weeks back, this column quoted Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez as opining that Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval, the chair of the House contingent in the CA, is strongly opposing his confirmation because Sandoval's fishing fleet stands to suffer due to Alvarez's promulgation of Department Administrative Order 17 (DAO-17), which seeks to prohibit commercial fishing within a 15-km limit from the shore. Alvarez became the first environment secretary to implement DAO-17 under the Fisheries Code for the benefit of the small municipal fishermen who have been crowded out of their waters for so long by the big operators. At the CA hearings, he came under tremendous pressure from the commercial fishermen's lobby group to rescind this order or risk being rejected. Obviously the powerful lobby has won.

Sandoval wrote this column toward the end of the hearings to assert that Alvarez's claim was "one of the biggest canards" being propagated against him and called the environment chief "an expert fabricator of lies." Sandoval stressed that "for 15 years now, I have not and am not involved in the fishing business."

His son, Navotas-Malabon Rep. Federico Sandoval, also reiterated his father's claim to this columnist at the CA committee hearing chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay. The younger Sandoval stressed that their family business, Sandoval Shipyards, is into repair of commercial fishing vessels only and that they have been out of commercial fishing itself for many years now.

* * *

**The claim seems true. I have verified that the one engaged in commercial deep-sea fishing is Rep. "Brown" Sandoval's niece, Marylou Sandoval Pe Tiu Lim, daughter of his late sister, Rebecca Sandoval Pe. Tiu Lim is the treasurer and owner of Mega Fishing Corp., which manufactures the Mega sardine brand advertised by actor Cesar Montano. Tiu Lim's fleet operates out of Cuyo Island, off Palawan.**

**But several things have to be pointed out. Sandoval, the CA vice chair, may be out of commercial fishing, but apart from his niece's business, he does business with big commercial outfits; hence, his vigorous objection to DAO-17 becomes suspect. Interestingly, the congressman is at odds with the provincial board of his native Palawan, which fully supports DAO-17.**

**On the other hand, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, which also fully supports DAO-17, filed last May 30 with the House ethics committee, chaired by Rep. Antonio Abaya, a formal complaint questioning Sandoval's motives in blocking the confirmation of Alvarez and seeking the Palawan lawmaker's inhibition from the CA deliberations on Alvarez because of conflict of interest. The league said Sandoval "openly admitted that he is a commercial fishing operator in the TV program 'Jessica Soho Reports'." Abaya assured the league that his committee would keep it posted on the deliberations to be conducted on its complaint.**

# Time for action on HIV/AIDS

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

IN 1995, 1,200 men living in urban areas and aged between 15 and 45 were asked what measures they believed would protect them from HIV infection. The three most popular measures turned out to be: taking antibiotics, keeping fit and healthy and saying a prayer.

These three means of "protection" from HIV make as much sense as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaiming before a regional summit that the reason the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country is "low and slow" is that Filipinos have a "high morality."

So what was our President saying? That the people in countries where there is a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS are immoral? Or that people who are living with HIV are paying the price for their "low morality"?

In a country where both the national leadership and ordinary folk are not only living in denial but speaking and behaving out of appalling ignorance and arrogance, the outlook for a concerted program to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS isn't good.

Maybe that's why during the recent visit of Dr. Nafis Sadik, the UN secretary general's special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, who was here to attend an international conference of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Dr. Sadik took every chance she could to remind Filipinos about the urgent need to address the issues of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines.

In a press conference, Dr. Sadik warned that while the prevalence of HIV/AIDS here has been described as "low and slow," "it was low and slow in many countries before they had a rapid increase in HIV/AIDS cases." In Vietnam, for instance, HIV infection rates among sex workers and their clients increased from almost "zero" in 1996 to more than 20 percent in 2000. In Indonesia, HIV infection among sex workers "has jumped from 6 percent to 26 percent in several sites." In Thailand, AIDS is now considered the No. 1 killer, this despite the progress the country has made in slowing the rate of new infections.

* * *

**"THERE is no room for complacency," Dr. Sadik warned, noting that there is a "huge explosion potential" for HIV/AIDS in the Philippines because "all known routes of transmission have been observed here."**

**Among these are "risky behavior (such as having multiple sex partners) at sizeable levels of frequency"; low level of condom use, as gleaned from surveys that show only 37 percent of commercial sex workers regularly require their clients to use condoms; the large number of migrant workers which comprises almost 10 percent of the entire population; and a large youth population who are particularly at risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, given their lack of knowledge about sex and responsible sexual behavior.**

**The time to act decisively and for officials at the highest levels to show "political will" in devoting money and efforts toward battling HIV/AIDS is right now, while the epidemic is still "low and slow." "We have a window of opportunity and a gift of time—this is the period where we could act much in advance of the impending storm, in fact, we can act to prevent such a storm from becoming a major one through effective prevention strategies," Dr. Sadik said.**

**In countries where the national leadership decided to take decisive action and strong and visible advocacy on HIV/AIDS, Dr. Sadik said, a growing HIV/AIDS crisis was not only averted but actually turned around. In Senegal, to cite just one country, "they were able to bring down the levels of new infections within one year."**

* * *

RIGHT after the press conference, Dr. Sadik graced the closing of a special youth forum on adolescent health and sexuality that they called "Gentxt... Talk...Sex."

Drawing about 50 young people (students from high schools and colleges in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog and Baguio, as well as working youth), the forum asked the participants to identify key issues of adolescent reproductive health, formulate core messages they think the public should be aware of, and then to present these in a "creative" manner.

What struck me as I watched the three groups present their issues and messages was the importance the young people placed on the role of parents as sex educators. All three groups identified the inability or refusal of parents to talk to their children about sex and relationships as a major "issue." As one group put it, "We just need someone to talk to. Listen to what is not being said. Don't push me to be you. Help me find myself."

Asserting that "the youth are not the problem but the solution," the young people portrayed how parents often refuse to answer straightforward questions about changes in a young person's body (such as a father's embarrassment when asked by his daughter about blood stains on her pants). The situation is compounded by "conservative" teachers who think explaining the reproductive process is "*bastos*," and judgmental employers who condemn a worker who gets pregnant out of wedlock without benefit of a hearing.

* * *

**INDEED, even as adults, especially our political leaders, shoot off their mouths about pre-marital sex and how young people are so much more horny these days (forgetting apparently that our own parents in our time thought we, too, were having more sex than they), what young people are telling us is that they rely on us for information, guidance and values. But in our fear, embarrassment and general lack of skills in communicating with our children, we are surrendering the ground to the media and to their peers who may be as ignorant as they are.**

**Young people don't need sermons or scares. All a parent has to do, they said, is "listen...be a friend."**

# Readers react

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

*Bambi L.Harper*

HERE'S an e-mail from reader Carmen Miraflor, who is based in California, reacting to the degradation of Siquijor's landscape:

"I am a Siquijodnon residing in California. Many of us are painfully aware of the environmental destruction the island has suffered in the hands of the mining operations...specifically the mining for manganese before World War II that continued through the 1950s and now the limestone mining in Lazi that started in 1995. The limestone mining was supposed to have been discontinued last year, with the mining company claiming that it was losing money because of competition from Japanese cement. There has been talk of reopening it but I do not know this for a fact."

Lo and behold, the Department of Public Works and Highways is the usual villain who caused the "gaping wound" visible in the northwest as you approach the island from Dumaguete. It turns out that as in Chocolate Hills, the DPWH and private road-building contractors are quarrying and blasting away to pulverize the stone for use on road surfaces. Unfortunately not only is the quarrying ruining the mountain but the stones are washed away every year by the rains, contributing to environmental disaster and adding to the waste of public funds! (Gee, DPWH, what's with you? If you're not constructing monstrous bridges in Loboc right smack into an ancient church, you're expanding the main road of Carcar putting all the ancestral homes there in danger. Now you're into environmental degradation in Siquijor?)

Miraflor continues: "The gaping wounds we have from mining are irreparable. It is not unlikely that our water tables and catchments are shifted and destroyed irremediably as to endanger future water supply. Furthermore, the blasting in and tailings from the Lazi mining operations have all but driven the fishes away, too far for our poor fishermen to catch. A budding duck farm had to shut down because the hens stopped laying eggs while the blasting went on.

"Is the local government concerned about this? Perhaps the governor and his sons, the Lazi mayor and the congressman, know the exact answer to this question."

(For all of you on the lookout for something new to discover, you might enjoy discovering Siquijor, watching the whales from a buff or swimming in pristine waters. And it may be a good time before the usual irresponsible people continue destroying it.)

Dennis Lee, another e-mailer wants Camp John Hay added to the list of desecrated landmarks. (Well, tell that to the Sobrepeñas or Fidel Ramos, though I doubt either would agree that whatever charm John Hay had is now gone for good. Although it may still be good enough as it is for the politicians and movie entertainers—which is probably the same thing.) Lee complains that trees had been cut wantonly, old historical buildings demolished and houses for the rich erected. The trees around the old manor house that was the main clubhouse are all gone.

He complains that "even if anyone can go in and visit John Hay nowadays, you cannot venture any farther than Scout Hill. Why? You need to be a club member."

He says that when the Americans used to run the place, "they emphasized the value of the environment. The Benguet and Baguio locals were the biggest tourists in that camp because it was specifically attuned to the local people. It gave them an example of what Baguio could be outside of the John Hay gates. Right now under Filipino management, it's specifically designed to appease and please politicians and rich folk, who by the way are mostly from Manila. Ask any old timer here and they don't want any of the `new' John Hay. The local people are alienated, except of course for the local officials, who in the first place allowed this desecration to happen. No wonder the tourism industry in this country is foundering." (Like I said, tell that to the geniuses who run this country.)

Then there's Piluchi in Switzerland, formerly from Cabuyao, Laguna, writing to her cousin Vicky Go in the United States to tell her that she finds her old hometown not just depressing but "very depressing. It is becoming a `slum' area. The wet market is just terrible, no order, too much traffic at Calle Real and most of all, the garbage-dumping place is just nearby. The plaza is a mess and is becoming a parking place because the LTO is just beside it. How I envy Sta. Rosa. This is what I know of progress due to industrialization. The whole town is clean and tidy. Cabuyao is just the opposite. The industrialization of the sugarcane and rice fields did not bring good revenues or it did but it went into the pockets of you know...Of course what was new there is the Industrial Park to which only employees in shuttle buses have access. There is a beautiful golf course, Sta. Elena and the Club House, which serves the best *halo-halo* I ever tasted. But this is again off limits to the public, only for members. (Shades of John Hay. We really are feudal, aren't we?) We were able to visit the place because Tony and Franz (both whites) were with us."

Vicky Go on the one hand writes that the Cabuyao church is "Yuck! It's so ugly! Not at all the gracious, 'old lady' we knew and loved." She mercifully doesn't go on to enumerate the 'sins' of the parish priest that hopefully are purely aesthetic and not the usual sins priests are being pilloried for in the media these days.

# Remembering Edsa III

*O masters, lords and rulers in all lands,*
*How will the Future reckon with this Man?*
*How answer his brute question in that hour*
*When whirlwinds of rebellion shake all shores?*
**—Edwin Markham, "The Man With the Hoe"**

**YOUNGBLOOD**

*Ron Darvin*

*We want to know what the young a thinking about. What are the thoughts on current issues? We we come contributions from t twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

IN FEBRUARY this year, above University Road at the Ateneo hung a banner proclaiming, "Edsa I and Edsa II Remembered." Holidays were declared and the usual pomp and circumstance marked the celebration of those historical events when Filipinos gathered on that grand highwa to oust two presidents.

After those upheavals, politicians patted each other's back Makati businessmen heaved a sigh of relief at being rid c Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, heading off economi turmoil, and *amigas* sipped their cappuccinos at Starbuck while recalling how they braved the crowds and distributec cheese pimiento sandwiches and Zesto to the demonstrators.

Walking down the road to Katipunan, I wondered if th Ateneo would ever hang a banner saying, "Edsa III Remembered." I wondered if the same politicians, businessmen and *amigas* would even call those days surrounding Labor Day of 2001 "Edsa III." I wondered how the historians, journalists and academicians of our time would describe that week on the pages of history—that period when thousands of Filipinos gathered on that same site of freedom and equality to demand the reinstatement of a president, firmly convinced that he really cared for them.

I remembered how more than just a year ago in May, thousands of Estrada's supporters marched to Malacañang to protest the former president's arrest. A few nights before that fateful morning, I sat immobilized in front of the TV set watching a sea of brown faces on Edsa, their voices hoarse with passion as they spat out their demands and their frustrations. What bothered me even further was that many people refused to take them seriously and conveniently assumed they were all *hakot* and that they would quickly disappear once funds started to dwindle. Text messages mocking their poverty and illiteracy spread as quickly as those that sparked People Power II a few months before. Intellectuals said these "*jologs*" were being manipulated and misled by politicians, and wailed that their protests were setting the country's progress back in more ways than one.

What was often conveniently overlooked, however, was that those people had every right to be there—those nameless masses, many of them lumpen. They were all Pinoy, and Edsa belonged to them as much as to former President Cory Aquino or Jaime Cardinal Sin. We could have cried our eyes out over how they vandalized our Shrine, that sacred symbol of earlier bourgeois revolutions. But we couldn't deny the fact that the God who resided in that sanctuary was also theirs. We should have known that when people who have been silenced for so long are given a chance to speak, the words and emotions will come flooding out with a force that knows no reverence.

But then we always remember so much, while remembering so little. We choose to remember our victories, we refuse to remember the losses of others. We recoil at the sight of these "dregs" of society throwing rocks and beating up a policeman as they march to Malacañang. We condemn them for desecrating our beloved Edsa and make fun of them for being *baduy* and *walang pinag-aralan*. We pray for them in gold-trimmed churches because "they know not what they do." Yet have we ever listened to them?

We chatter endlessly about Estrada's many faults and cannot quite believe how the masses would deify such an immoral man, when perhaps the question is no longer how much they believe in him, but why they had no other choice but to do so. It was Erap who used to go on AM radio every week to listen to Aling Pacing pour her heart out over the rising cost of *mantika*. Erap who never had much of an education and who couldn't conjugate an English verb properly spoke their language quite eloquently. Why would they not march to Edsa if their only hope for a better life was to be lost forever? Why could they not understand the logic of "civil society" when "civil society" was too busy talking about them in air-conditioned coffee shops?

Rizal, in a letter to Blumentritt, said he wrote "Noli Me Tangere" because "I wanted to awaken my countrymen from their profound lethargy, and whoever wants to awaken does not do so with soft and light sounds but with explosions and blows."

That early morning of Labor Day last year, the explosions and blows did come. They came from an army of dispossessed Filipinos who had kept silent for too long. Edsa III gave them a chance to speak. And with their newfound voice, they wanted to rouse the nation from its deep slumber, to make people realize that millions were going hungry, were without jobs and had no future to look forward to. They wanted to shake up an untouchable elite who had been crying, *"Noli me tangere,"* for far too long, to show them that their sufferings were real and could not be overlooked any longer.

People can always pretend it did not happen. Some may be a little more adventurous and refer to it as "the so-called" Edsa III, as if to say, "Yes, there was a little bit of a ruckus, but it meant nothing at all." For others, it cannot be more than a mob because Edsa is reserved for those democratic gatherings where people wear straw hats, have a cell phone in one hand and bottled water in the other, and say, "Excuse me," before stepping on your foot. Edsa is for people who will never hurl a stone and who can afford to sing and dance because they already have much to celebrate, with or without Erap.

But lest we forget, who built Edsa? Who laid the bricks and poured the cement, toiling under the midday sun?

If we do believe in constructing a nation on the basis of equality and justice, then we must remember that this "one" nation is made up of many; that behind the foghorn of single nationhood are voices of different tenors and different timbres. Because of the devices of power, some voices are amplified, while others are stilled. Yet before justice can prevail, it is essential that these marginalized voices be heard—on the streets, in our celebrations of history, in the stories we tell about this one, glorious nation. For only then can we say we truly remember. And only when we remember, can we begin to build this nation together.

*Ron Darvin, 28, recently completed his thesis on the representation of the poor in national narratives, which he has dedicated to the Filipinos of Edsa III.*

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# Tax relief for labor

JUST as Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho reduces the tax incentives for foreign investors in order to resolve the government's budget deficit (PDI, 6/17/02), workers would like to offer this unsolicited advice to the Macapagal administration: tax the rich; exempt the poor.

The current taxation system is regressive. Tax reform is imperative so that the tax burden must shift from the indigent to the affluent. At present, workers are burdened with the taxes withheld from our salaries and sales taxes that fuel inflation.

The Partido ng Manggagawa demands tax exemptions for workers who earn below the cost of living in order to increase their take-home pay.

Since the Macapagal administration has denounced any substantial price increases as "anti-labor," the least it can do is shoulder the responsibility of increasing our purchasing power through tax relief.

Moreover, if the government is considerate to foreign investors, giving them tax exemptions to entice their entry into the country, why then should it not consider tax breaks for the workers? Does it mean that workers are mere milking cows of the state?

Those who oppose labor's demand for tax relief contend that it would worsen the budget deficit. True, this would mean a reduction in government income. Yet, even if we have a larger pie, the government would still have less to allocate for the people since it automatically provides a bigger portion of the budget for debt servicing. Almost half (46 percent) of the 2002 national budget goes to debt payments.

But if the government would implement a moratorium on debt payments, then it could easily provide tax exemptions to alleviate the misery and poverty of the Filipino worker.

**—RENATO MAGTUBO, national chair, Partido ng Manggagawa, 47 Masikap St., Barangay Pinyahan, Diliman, Quezon City**

## ATO doesn't conduct biddings for projects

THIS is in reference to Ramon Tulfo's column last June 18, where he accused the Air Transportation Office of corruption based on the claims of one bidder for the Davao ILS project, which is scheduled for rebidding.

First of all, Tulfo appears not to have comprehended the earlier explanations the ATO made regarding this project to wit. So he is barking up the wrong tree.

The ATO does not conduct biddings on any project pertaining to airports all over the country. It is the Department of Transportation and Communication at the Project Management Office (PMO) that does so. The ATO only accepts the project after its completion and its proper turnover to us for operation.

The ATO is not even part of the planning and project implementation of any contract being undertaken by the DOTC.

If Tulfo had only bothered to call us, we could have explained it to him better. In fact it was the Asian Development Bank that directed the DOTC to do a rebidding on this particular ILS project, not the ATO.

**—M/GEN. ADELBERTO F. YAP (ret.), assistant secretary, Air Transportation Office, MIA Road corner Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Pasay City**

## FPJ puts opposition to shame

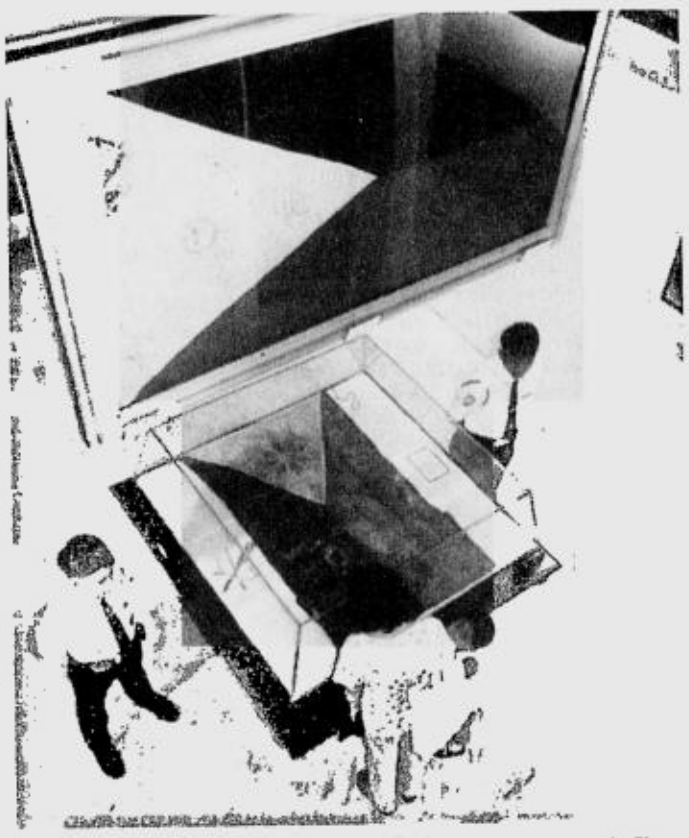
THE OPPOSITION'S dogged effort to draft actor Fernando Poe Jr. as its presidential candidate in 2004 confirms its total disdain for the right of suffrage.

The painful truth is that we have proven time and again that we deserve such a shabby treatment by voting on the basis of popularity instead of in terms of quality.

The refusal of the actor on the ground that he has no experience and training for the presidency role shows a lot more sense of responsibility on the part of the actor than opposition leaders.

May Poe's refusal on very valid grounds shame the politicians and bring home to us all the gravity of our duty to vote for qualified candidates. Otherwise, governance will be reduced completely to a tragic comedy of errors and corruption.

**—MA. GRACIA RIÑOZA-PLAZO, 62 Katipunan Ave. Ext., Loyola Grand Villas, Quezon City**



## Official dimensions of the national flag

ON MARCH 25, 1936, President Manuel L. Quezon promulgated and ordered the specifications for the Philippine National Flag to be strictly observed by all civil and military branches of government. Through Executive Order 23, signed by Secretary of the Interior Elpidio Quirino, Quezon gave form and shape to our flag. EO 23, entitled "Description and Specifications of the National Flag," gave the following provisions:

1. The maximum length of the flag is twice its width; the minimum length is twice the altitude of the equilateral triangle.

2. Any side of the equilateral triangle is as long as the width of the flag.

3. Solid golden sunburst without any markings—Sun with eight rays, equally spaced; Arc x with Sun ray = Free arc y: two opposite rays in horizontal axis and two in vertical axis; Sun's diameter D = w/5; each ray has one major beam, twice as broad as the minor beam on either side; length of major beam = 5/90; length of minor beam r = 4/5 R.

4. Three five-pointed golden stars of equal size, each star with one point directed to the vertex of the angle enclosing it; diameter of circumscribed circle of each star = 5/9 diameter of inscribed circle of each star = 2/9; distance from each corner D/2.

5. Canvas-trimmed edge to the left of the triangle is approximately D/5 wide not counted in measuring length of flag.

6. Flags made of silk will be trimmed on three edges with a knotted fringe of yellow silk D/5 wide.

So there. Quezon prescribed what the Philippine National Flag should be. Prior to Executive Order 23, the Filipino flag was without specifications as to the different elements of the banner. Everyone had his own version of the flag.

The flag we see today is definitely not President Emilio F. Aguinaldo's flag that had a mythological sun and eight elongated diamond-shaped rays. Aguinaldo gave Gov. Francis Burton Harrison in 1919 a flag with a mythical sun complete with eyes, nose and mouth in black lines.

RA 849, an act prescribing the code of the national flag, anthem, motto, coat-of-arms and other heraldic items and devises of the Philippines states in part:

"Our flag with all its enduring symbolisms, has been enthusiastically admired and respected since 1935. It is aesthetically attractive and certainly pleasing in terms of its gorgeous design, striking colors, and its other impressive salient features. In brief, it is a long painstaking and fine product of evolutionary changes, an emblem—'consecrated and honored' by at least four generations of Filipinos and recognized by several fundamental laws of the land."

EO 35 was signed on March 25, 1936. What our new generation is admiring today is the National Flag designed during the Commonwealth regime.

**—SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

## Order to murder Saddam?

US President George W. Bush has gone berserk. His mission order to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to kill Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is plainly a directive to murder. Ordering the murder of another head of state—even if he comes from a so-called "rogue" country—is an act so desperate and despicable that it should be condemned by all civilized human beings on earth, and wherever human beings and civilizations exist.

Bush's directive to the CIA, issued last March, authorized the use of "lethal force" to capture the Iraqi president, or kill him if they (the CIA) were acting in "self defense." How can an assassination be an act of self-defense? Quite plainly, the order is to murder Saddam.

The truth of the matter is that Bush has been packaging America's aggression and belligerence in many parts of the world as "acts of self-defense," a twisted logic that can only come from a maniacal mind. He might as well order the slaughter of all Iraqi children, most particularly the boys, to prevent the emergence of another Saddam should he succeed in murdering the Iraqi president. Hatred toward America seethes among the younger generation of Iraq, and even George Bush Sr. balked at eliminating Saddam during the Gulf War. He feared a new Iraqi leader could give the US greater headaches.

Never had a head of one nation openly ordered the murder of the head of another nation. To be silent in this regard is to be an accomplice to this murderous plot. Thus we await reactions from Kofi Annan, Vladimir Putin, Tony Blair, et al. and most particularly the Pope to Bush's latest attempt to encash anew the already overdrawn carte blanche that he thought he got after the 9/11 attacks on the United States, this time through the commission of murder.

We mourn the deaths of the 3,000 or so Americans during the 9/11 attacks, to which the Iraqis and Saddam were not a party, just as we rage over the deaths of more than 1.5 million Iraqis because of the economic embargo on Iraq, an ongoing act of genocide that is directly enforced by the United States.

Whatever may be said of Saddam Hussein can never be a justification for his murder. Only the Iraqi people themselves have the right to choose or oust their leaders, as do the Americans and other peoples of the world.

If Saddam is the ogre that American propaganda has painted him to be, Bush now ranks many notches higher in terms of monstrosity. And blood will be in the hands of all decent leaders of the world if they allow Bush to proceed with his murderous rampage.

**—DANILO DE AUSTRIA CONSUMIDO, Philippine-Iraq Friendship Association, Unit 3-C, Mar-Vi Center, Panay Avenue, Quezon City**

# The Bush doctrine of preemption

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's emerging new "doctrine" of preemptive action against hostile states and groups developing weapons of mass destruction could mark the biggest shift in US strategic thinking in 50 years, analysts say.

But it depends on whether his pledge to strike first against enemies before they attack the United States turns out to be a more concrete action plan than just rhetoric. Past presidents had the same preemption tool in their foreign policy repertoire but chose not to use it.

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

*Carol Giacomo*

"What is at stake is nothing less than a fundamental shift in America's place in the world," according to Prof. William Galston of the University of Maryland.

"Rather than continuing to serve as first among equals in the postwar international system, the United States would act as a law unto itself, creating new rules of international engagement without agreement by other nations...a new stance (that) would ill-serve" long-term US interests, the former aide to President Bill Clinton wrote in The Washington Post.

Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said Bush's approach is "not new, except that the president has made it in a formal statement."

But it has value because it warns enemies they are not immune before they actually attack the United States, he told Reuters.

America's critics may interpret Bush's position "as unilateralism or recklessness. But the question is, do you want an honest statement that serves as a warning and a deterrent or do you want to live in a world of pretense?" he added.

With Washington still struggling to respond to the Sept. 11 attacks and expected future incidents, Bush introduced the idea of preemption while addressing Germany's parliament in May.

Then, in a commencement speech at the United Military Academy at West Point, he expanded on the theme, arguing America must be prepared to strike first against "terrorists and tyrants" because Cold War policies of deterrence and containment do not fit the post-Sept. 11 world.

Exactly what Bush means is not clear. His evolving strategy has not been fully spelled out. Administration deliberations are not expected to be completed until August.

Generally, however, preemption is aimed at al-Qaida, the Islamic militant group blamed for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, as well as countries like Iraq, Iran and North Korea, which Bush branded an "axis of evil" and said are developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The premier target is Iraq. US intelligence reportedly has intensified plans to topple President Saddam Hussein as a means of avoiding a full-scale US invasion.

The new preemption policy is not expected to espouse the first use of US nuclear weapons, something Washington has never ruled out but has avoided since dropping bombs on Japan in World War II. It does, however, anticipate conventional military intervention, as well as diplomatic tools.

The emerging strategy reflects the firm belief of administration conservatives that the United States must be able to take any action deemed necessary to defend national security.

"It really means early action of some kind," National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told The New York Times in describing administration thinking about preemption. "It means forestalling certain destructive acts against you by an adversary...(There are times) when you can't wait to be attacked to respond."

Such talk has resonated in Europe where it is seen as further evidence that Bush is bent on unilateralism in foreign affairs with little regard for allies' views, said Ivo Daalder, a national security expert at the Brookings Institution who worked in Clinton's White House.

In the United States, there has been little debate. Many do not take preemption seriously and others, after Sept. 11, give the government wide latitude to do whatever it takes to combat extremist threats.

One Republican source said he has "no problem with preemption as a theory" but believes Bush is accruing too much power to determine on his own America's enemies and military targets. The US Congress, cowed by Bush's high public opinion poll ratings, is not providing checks and balances, he said.

Michele Flournoy and Vinca LaFleur, experts with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Bush is right to preserve a first-strike option. But, as they stressed in a Washington Post column, "preemption should be an option on America's strategic menu—not the strategy itself."

Potential risks are great. The best time for a preemptive strike is in the early days of a country's nuclear, biological or chemical program, experts say. As the program matures, leaders work harder to protect these capabilities and the task of eliminating the threat becomes more difficult.

But when a weapon of mass destruction program is in the early stages, it is harder to make a political argument for preemptive action and the chance of all-out war increases.

An explicit US threat raises the stakes. "A 'use it or lose it' mentality could make our enemies more reckless, while the desire to preserve US credibility could become a strategic straitjacket for us," Flournoy and LaFleur wrote.

Previous US presidents, including Clinton, had the same option of preemption open to them but seldom used it.

For Clinton, a key moment was the 1993-1994 crisis over North Korea's nuclear program. He was ready to take preemptive military action against Pyongyang but decided first to try negotiations, which worked, producing a landmark deal (now under attack by Bush) that froze the North's program.

"It's very easy to talk about preemption but when you think about how such a strike would play itself out, there are reasons to be worried and wary," Daalder said. "I have no doubt that if (Bush and his aides) look at the details (of the North Korea case) the things that deterred Clinton...are going to play heavily in this case as well."

Critics say Bush must focus more on prevention, working to keep weapons from falling into the wrong hands. ***Reuters***

## Equal opportunity for senior citizens

I CAME across the letter of Eligio Pastorin of Marikina in the June 8, 2002 issue of the INQUIRER. Please allow me to assure Mr. Pastorin that my filing of House Bill 975 or the "Magna Carta for Older Persons" is not aimed at earning the votes of the senior citizens.

In my frequent meetings with people and organizations from various age groups, economic sectors and interest groups, I have become very aware of our unemployment problems. My proposed bill seeks to provide equal opportunity employment for our senior citizens to give organizations and companies the opportunity to gain from their rich experience and expertise. It is in no way designed to force employers to hire the senior citizens. The bill only seeks to bring down the wall that hinders the productive contribution of an employee who has reached the age of 60. Reaching this age does not automatically make a person unfit for employment. In some cases, an organization stands to gain much benefit from the insights and experience of its older employees. A look at the roster of consultants of some companies will prove this point.

So, rather than dismiss this proposed bill as only a way of courting the votes of the senior citizens, let's all together push our government to provide an atmosphere that will allow our economy to prosper. It is only in such an environment that gainful employment can be made available to anyone who has the drive and capability to work.

**—REP. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR, Las Piñas City**

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*Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.*

## Scrapping of UVVRP welcome news

THE PLAN of the new chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Bayani Fernando, to drop the color-coding traffic scheme is welcome news to many of us who only have one car and therefore cannot use the car one day in the week.

I believe the intention of the MMDA's Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program or the UVVRP was to decongest Metro Manila's main thoroughfares when the MRT and the Skyway were under construction. Both projects have long been completed and the UVVRP should have been long lifted. Instead, the MMDA should have implemented a more effective traffic management program that focuses on motorist discipline and strict enforcement of traffic laws rather than depriving car owners of the use of their vehicles.

I am sure that many motorists support Fernando's move to scrap the UVVRP altogether and implement a traffic plan that will ensure the convenience and safety of the motorists and commuters. With a number of road infrastructures now in place, this is very doable.

**—CATHERINE MOZO, 29 St. John, JPA Subd., Muntinlupa City**

## Where did they get that news story?

SOME newspapers and radio and TV stations reported a piece of non-existent news and attributed it to me. I am referring to the story titled "Japanese, Korean tourists kidnapped." The news said, "(Teresita) Ang-See declined to give details on the kidnappings, saying it could endanger the lives of the victims."

The news apparently came from my radio interview with dzEC. I called up the station and asked if they did air such a news report and Erwin Lara said no, they did not air any news like that.

It therefore came as a big surprise to me how such a non-existent news could have been aired.

To clarify the issue, I never talked about any Japanese or Korean tourists being kidnapped. Much less is there an ongoing National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) operation, the details of which I cannot reveal. I was asked if it was true that there were two "live kidnapping cases" and my answer was that we didn't ever talk about "live kidnapping cases." There was never any reference to a Japanese and a Korean tourist.

It is unfair for reporters to put words into my mouth and attribute to me news that I never disclosed. This has happened several times so I urge the media to practice responsible reporting. In our anti-crime work, the media can be our best of friends but they can also be our worst enemy. I would rather never be interviewed than have my interviews twisted and wrongly reported.

**—TERESITA ANG SEE, Citizens Action Against Crime (Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order), Intramuros, Manila**

The WORLD
Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Palestinian gunman kills 5 Israelis

**NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli armor rumbled into the West Bank city of Nablus on Friday just hours after a Palestinian gunman killed five Israelis in an attack on a house filled with children in a nearby Jewish settlement.**

The incursion, involving dozens of tanks and armored vehicles, appeared to be the broadest Israeli response yet to a new wave of Palestinian attacks, including two suicide bombings in Jerusalem which killed 26 people.

The attacks have prompted the United States to hold off on a key policy statement outlining its view of the road to Palestinian statehood.

The Israeli army said in a statement the Israeli death toll in Thursday's assault on the settlement of Itamar was five: Rachel Shabo, 40, and three of her six children, Neria, 15, Zvi, 12 and Avishai, five, and a security guard.

Ambulance service workers had said on Thursday that six people were killed in the attack.

"The terrorist climbed a fence, entered one of the houses and opened fire at its residents," the army statement said.

Soldiers who stormed the house killed the gunman. Two of the other children in the house, which burned down after a bullet ignited a gas canister, were wounded by the gunman, the army said.

Jewish settlers living on land Israel occupied in the 1967 Middle East war have frequently come under attack during a 20-month Palestinian uprising.

In Gaza on Friday, a Palestinian opened fire and threw grenades at an Israeli force at the Erez border crossing as Palestinian workers were waiting to enter an Israeli industrial park, security sources said.

Soldiers shot him dead and two Palestinian laborers were killed in the exchange of fire, the sources said.

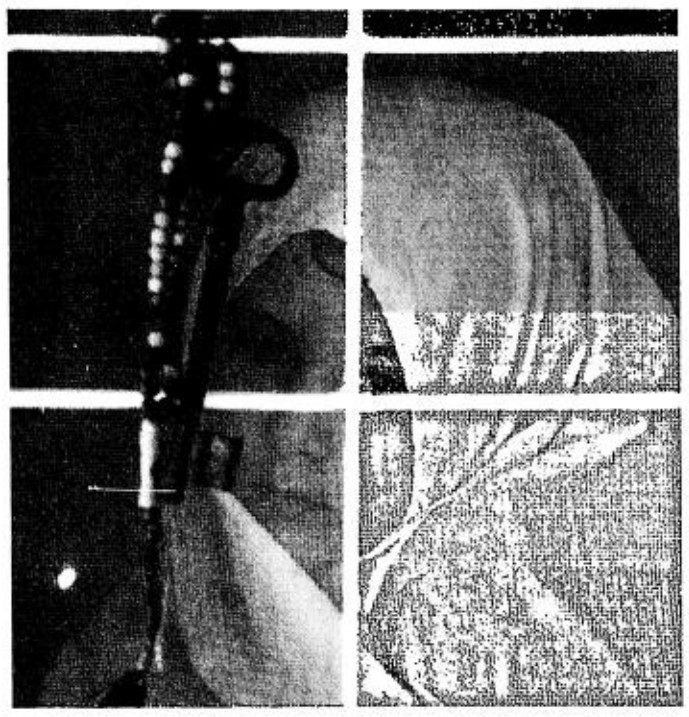
Political sources said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would convene his security cabinet on Friday to discuss a possible further call-up of army reservists and a widening of Israeli military operations in the West Bank.

Palestinian witnesses and security officials said Israeli troops entered Nablus from three directions. Soldiers announced over loudspeakers that a curfew had been imposed and troops sporadically opened fire, the witnesses said.

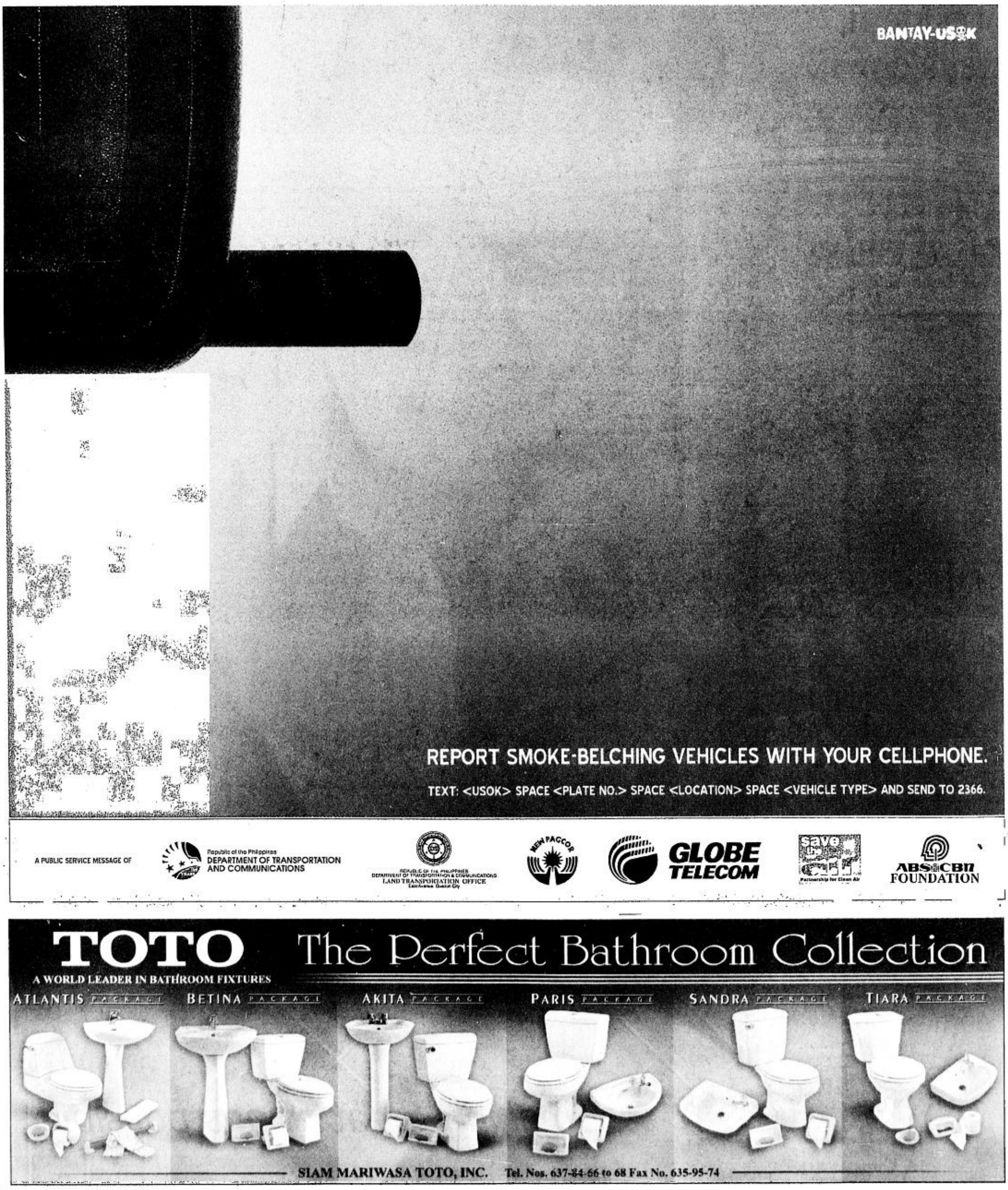
There were no immediate reports of injuries or resistance. An army spokesman would not comment on the reported raid.

"We are in the middle of a war, a hard war, a cruel war, a war that the Palestinian terrorists are carrying out against women and children and old people," Sharon told a meeting of Jewish leaders shortly after the Itamar attack began to unfold on Thursday.

"We are facing a coalition of terror led by the Palestinian Authority and backed by an axis of evil—Tehran, Baghdad, Damascus and (Osama) bin Laden," Sharon said. ***Reuters***



**A PALESTINIAN girl in a prayer dress looks out of her home in the al-Hussein Palestinian refugee camp in Amman June 20. Jordan is host to some 1.7 million Palestinian refugees. The key hanging with the prayer beads is from the girl's grandfather's house in Jaffa which he left after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.** REUTERS

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**HOLY HOOGLY** REUTERS

**An Indian boy picks a lotus flower from the Hoogly river in the eastern city of Calcutta on June 20. Hindus regard the Ganga river, called Hooghly in West Bengal, as sacred and offer special prayers once a year just ahead of the monsoon.**

# US high court bars executions of mentally retarded convicts

WASHINGTON—Ruling that it violated a constitutional ban on "cruel and unusual punishment," the US Supreme Court on Thursday prohibited the execution of the mentally retarded.

The ruling was based on the case of Daryl Atkins, a 24-year-old with the mental capacity of a child sentenced to death by a Virginia court for the 1996 kidnapping and murder of a US serviceman.

The court agreed with Atkins's lawyers that putting mentally retarded defendants to death was a violation of the eighth amendment to the US Constitution, which stipulates that cruel and unusual punishments shall not be imposed.

"From now on, no mentally retarded person on death row will be subject to the death penalty," attorney Barry Weinstein told AFP.

For those currently on death row, he added, "there will be an opportunity to challenge their death sentence and ask for a new sentencing hearing."

The ruling effectively reverses a 1989 decision that executing the mentally retarded does not violate the Constitution because a "national consensus" had not developed against the procedure.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who wrote the majority opinion in that case, reversed herself to side with a new majority on Thursday.

Only 20 of the 38 states where the death penalty is used allow the execution of the mentally retarded. A mentally retarded person is generally considered someone with an intelligence quotient below 85 on the Wechsler scale, which goes to 150. Atkins has an IQ of 59.

According to the New York-based Human Rights Watch, an estimated five percent of the 2,455 people currently facing a death sentence in those 20 states may be mentally retarded.

The 6-3 decision was based on an evolution of opinion of what constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and comes amid increasing criticism in the United States of capital punishment in general.

Thursday's ruling does not address capital punishment on the whole, and is confined only to those defendants convicted of murder.

Justice John Paul Stevens, writing for the majority, said the decision was made "in the light of the dramatic changes during the last 13 years in the state legislative landscape." ***AFP***

# Bangladesh president steps down

DHAKA—Bangladesh's President Badruddoza Chowdhury was to formally submit his resignation Friday, bowing to pressure from the government which accused him of disrespecting the ruling party's founder, officials said.

Chowdhury cancelled a trip outside Dhaka and will offer prayers at a mosque after submitting his resignation around 5:00 p.m.(7 p.m. in Manila), said presidential palace spokesman Abu Zafar Iqbal.

"He briefly met and shook hands with all his palace personnel to say goodbye. He thanked them for their cooperation and asked to them to do the same to his successor," Iqbal told AFP.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Islamist-allied ruling coalition in November unanimously elected Chowdhury to the largely ceremonial presidency for five years, but late Thursday demanded he step down.

Chowdhury, a 71-year-old former foreign minister and founding secretary general of Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was criticized for not visiting the grave of slain president Ziaur Rahman, the party's founder and Zia's late husband, on the anniversary of his 1981 death.

The BNP held a two-day meeting at which its MPs passed a resolution saying they had "lost confidence in him," Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain told reporters.

Under the constitution Chowdhury has to send his resignation to Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, who will serve as acting president until parliament elects a successor within 90 days.

The president has made no comments on the move, but his son Mahi Chowdhury told reporters late Thursday: "My father did not disrespect Ziaur Rahman and he is stepping down due to his respect for democracy, as well as to the BNP parliamentary party's decision, and as he was the founding secretary general of the BNP." ***AFP***

# 111 killed in China coal mine blast

BEIJING—A total of 111 coal miners were confirmed dead Friday with four more still missing following a massive gas explosion in northeast China which again highlighted the abysmal safety record of the country's mining industry.

Thus far 60 bodies have been retrieved from the state-run Chengzihe Coal Mine and rescue efforts for the miners still missing were "in full swing," the Xinhua news agency said.

The blast ripped through the mine, in Jixi city, Heilongjiang province, at 9:45 a.m. Thursday. Twenty-four people were rescued, none of whom were critically injured, Xinhua added.

The mine—which refused to comment about the accident—was run by the Jixi Mining Administrative Bureau, an official at the bureau's safety monitoring section told AFP.

"They haven't carried out an investigation yet because now they're concentrating on rescuing miners," said the employee, surnamed Hu.

Jixi's mayor and bosses from the Jixi Mining Industry Group were coordinating rescue efforts at the site, and Heilongjiang's governor Song Fatang was on his way to Jixi, Xinhua said.

The coal mine was a relatively large operation with 5,500 workers, producing 1.1 million tons of coal annually, Xinhua said.

The general manager of the mine, named as Zhao Wenlin, was inspecting work underground when the explosion occurred, the agency added. It was not known whether he was among the dead or injured. ***AFP***

# Priest charged with rape, assault of boys in rectory

CAMBRIDGE—A grand jury on Thursday indicted Father Paul Shanley, a central figure in a sex-abuse scandal rocking the Roman Catholic Church, on charges of raping and assaulting four young boys in the rectory and other parts of a church during religious classes.

Middlesex County District Attorney Martha Coakley said Shanley, already facing some of the most shocking accusations in the scandal, had been indicted on multiple counts of rape and indecent assault and battery of four children under the age of 14.

Coakley said all of the alleged incidents took place between 1979 and 1989 when Shanley, an advocate of sex between men and boys, worked at St. John the Evangelist parish in the Boston suburb of Newton.

The men who made the accusations that led to the indictment were between six and 15 years old when the priest allegedly took them out of religion classes to other rooms and proceeded to rape and assault them.

"The allegations involve situations where the (boys) are attending a weekly class. Father Shanley is the pastor at the time. He asks for one or more students to come to talk with him about an instance and that's when the victims allege the abuse would occur—both in the rectory and different parts of the church," Coakley told a news conference.

Coakley said the grand jury was able to return an indictment in part because the allegations of the four men—now aged between 24 and 32—fell within the statute of limitations for child sex abuse cases.

She said her office had been inundated in recent months with complaints against Shanley, but that many of the accusations were simply too old to be prosecuted.

"We've had reports of allegations that go back to the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, and the majority are outside the statute of limitations," she said, noting that the investigation of Shanley remained open.

Shanley, who was arrested last month in California and extradited to Massachusetts, pleaded not guilty to three previous charges of rape and is being held on $300,000-bail in a Massachusetts jail. ***Reuters***

REUTERS

**OFF TO WORK**

**Indian women laborers, in traditional Rajasthani dresses, walk to work at the Thar Desert near the city of Jaisalmer in India's Rajasthan state June 20. The women often walk long distances in the scorching heat, carrying tools balanced on their head. Women are usually paid less than men for the same work.**

# US solons seek probe of leaked 9/11 intercepts

WASHINGTON—After complaints from the White House, the chairmen of a congressional probe into pre-Sept. 11 intelligence lapses asked the Justice Department on Thursday to investigate leaks of sensitive information.

President George W. Bush is "deeply concerned" that classified information about secret intercepts with the potential to undermine US national security leaked from a joint inquiry by the Senate and the House of Representatives into the Sept. 11 attacks, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Bush directed Vice President Dick Cheney to express his concerns to the co-chairmen, Republican Rep. Porter Goss and Democratic Sen. Bob Graham, both of Florida. Later, they sent a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft asking him to launch an investigation.

The Justice Department said it would act promptly on the request.

That puts the lawmakers, who are looking into FBI intelligence failures related to Sept. 11, in the position of being investigated by the FBI about the leaks.

Goss said Cheney had not threatened the committee with cutting off classified information nor had he suggested getting the FBI to investigate. Graham said Cheney had not suggested to him that the Justice Department investigate the leaks.

"I assured him I felt very chagrined to have to receive a call from the vice president of the United States and I would do my darndest to get to the bottom of what was going on," Goss said.

Government sources said on Wednesday that the day before hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon near Washington, the National Security Agency intercepted two messages indicating an event was planned, but the communications were not translated until Sept. 12.

The agency, which eavesdrops worldwide, intercepted messages that said, "Tomorrow is zero hour" and "The match begins tomorrow," the sources said. One government source said on Thursday both messages went from Afghanistan to Saudi Arabia. ***Reuters***

# Cuba to enshrine communist system

HAVANA—Cuban President Fidel Castro's government said on Thursday it will adopt amendments enshrining its communist system in the national constitution to counter threats from US President George W. Bush.

Rejecting US demands that the island open up to democracy and a market economy, National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon said Bush—backed by anti-Castro exiles in Florida—wanted to destroy Cuba's revolution and reverse half a century of social gains.

"We will affirm that the political, economic and social bases of our constitution are unchangeable," Alarcon said at a rally in Havana's Revolution Square where he received 23 truckloads of signatures supporting the amendments.

The 8.2 million signatures, amounting to 98 percent of Cuba's voting population, were gathered since Saturday in a campaign that dissidents said was aimed at crushing their own proposals for internal reform.

Alarcon left no doubt that the National Assembly, Cuba's rubber-stamp parliament, will approve the changes when it meets on July 5, making the one-party workers state "untouchable."

Cuba's small dissident movement saw the signature campaign as a move to stamp out their Varela Project, a moderate proposal seeking a referendum on greater civil liberties for Cuba's 11 million inhabitants.

The Varela Project, which has never been publicized by Cuba's state-controlled media, would ask Cubans if they favor freedom of speech and assembly, the right to own a business and an amnesty for political prisoners.

Officials in the ruling Communist Party said the dissident plan was financed by the United States. They maintain that their signature campaign was a response to Bush's provocations and not to internal dissent. ***Reuters***

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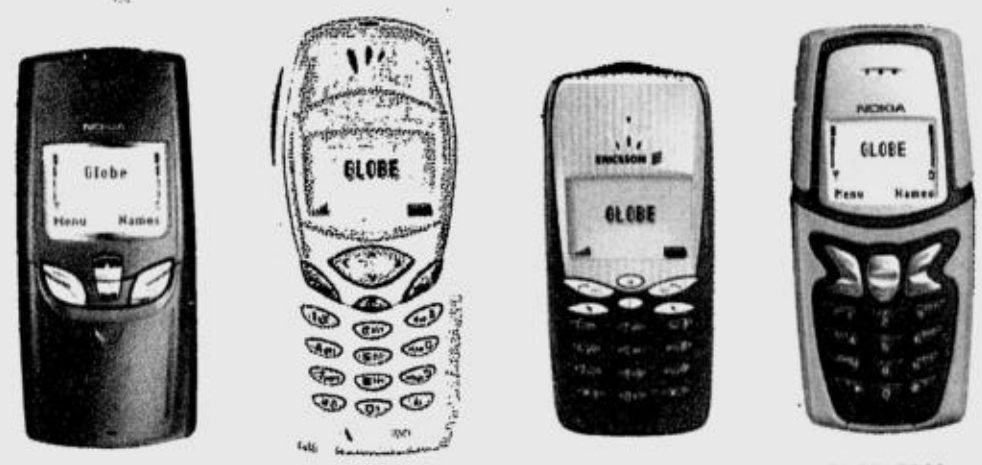

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# NPA rebs torch 3 more buses in Negros

**BACOLOD CITY—About 30 suspected New People's Army (NPA) guerillas burned four buses of the Ceres Liner on Thursday night in Barangay Bacuyangan, Hinobaan town, Negros Occidental.**

The burning of the buses brought to nine the total number of Ceres buses burned this year in Iloilo and Negros Island after the Vallacar Transit refused to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the rebel group.

Olivia Yanson, owner of Vallacar Transit, lamented that they had decided not to park their buses in remote areas following the recent NPA attack, which cost the company about P12 million. Each bus cost P3 million.

Yanson said they had parked their buses in remote areas in the past so the company could provide better service to residents in rural areas and so the buses could be used in cases of emergencies.

Initial police investigation showed that at about 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, the rebels entered the garage of Ceres Liner in Barangay Bacuyangan, Hinobaan, about 199.4 km south of here.

The suspects, armed with automatic rifles and an M-60 machinegun, then poured gasoline on the four buses.

Ceres buses with Nos. 7780, 7590 and 7586 were destroyed while Ceres Bus No. 7776 was damaged.

Not content, the suspects then ransacked the garage of the bus firm's ICOM base radio. They also disarmed the security guard of his 12-gauge shotgun before fleeing, the police said.

The garage was about 2 km away from the Hinobaan Police Station.

But responding policemen on board fire trucks arrived at the fire scene reportedly 10 minutes after the suspects withdrew.

Col. Alphonsus Crucero, 303rd Infantry Brigade commanding officer, yesterday dispatched troops of the 61st Infantry Battalion to track down the fleeing suspects.

Senior Supt. Geary Barias, Negros Occidental police director, said the leader of the group was identified only as Ka Hassan.

Military reports showed that Ka Hassan used to be a platoon leader of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade in southern Negros, who joined the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA after he was placed under disciplinary action for his illegal activities. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

# Bank clients won't sue but continue with protests

LUCENA CITY—Despite having been allegedly duped by an employee of the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. branch here, angry bank clients and depositors said on Friday that they would not file charges against the bank.

"We were advised by our legal consultant to desist from filing criminal charges against Metrobank. We believe that elevating the matter to the court is what the bank wants us to do to entangle our money claims into an intricate web of legalistic processes," Josephine Rances Tan, a physician and a trustee of the dollar account of her mother, told the INQUIRER.

She said they would just continue their protests and appeal to the sense of compassion of bank officials. She added that banks are sensitive institutions.

"They could not afford to be the center of media reports on the scam for a long time. Their credibility as a financial institution is at stake here," she said.

The number of irate bank depositors and clients continued to rise here.

Even the sick have now surfaced and narrated how they were tricked of their hard-earned money and have now joined the protest for the return of their deposits.

On Wednesday, during a picket staged by a group of angry victims, an elderly man from Sariaya said the money that the depositors lost is a "big treasure" for poor people like them.

"I'm sick and got out of the hospital only last month but I have to be here to recover my money and register my protest," Pascual Reynoso, a retired teacher, told newsmen as he feebly struggled to cling to the steel post of the bank's neon sign.

"They fooled us," he said with his head shaking. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

**MANSION**

**This mansion sitting on a 3,200-square meter property on the main road in Mexico, Pampanga, has drawn the attention of passersby but its ownership remains mysterious. Talk among residents of Barangay San Fernando Sur in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, points to the owner of the luxurious house as one of their own, now an administration official. The compound has a main mansion, a two-storey, two-bedroom guesthouse and a chapel that can be converted into a conference hall. The garage can accommodate up to five cars. The official was seen visiting the site every weekend during the mansion's construction.**

# Mayor faces recall move from village execs

**By Geraldford P. Ticke**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Barangay officials in this city are preparing for a preparatory recall assembly on July 2 against Mayor Victorino Dennis Socrates, allegedly for loss of confidence in his administration.

The recall issue is making barangay heads busy, aside from them being preoccupied with the coming synchronized Sangguniang Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15.

The recall issue stemmed from a statement issued by Socrates that indicated that attending to barangay affairs is a "stupid function." Another reason is the significant slashing of budget for barangays.

The complaining barangay officials also showed disgust with the administration for bypassing them in their villages and installing coordinators to attend to the needs of the people.

The secretariat of the recall movement said it has already sent a notice to Socrates regarding the assembly.

### Confident

Socrates, however, said he is confident that the recall will not push through and said that if ever it does, he would still win.

"This recall will never push through because we have the numbers, we have the majority," Socrates said in a radio interview. "We came from nowhere last 2001, and we beat our rivals. The people (who) supported us last elections are still there, and our opponents should think twice *bago lumaban sa atin* (before fighting us)."

The city administration also dismissed the recall movement as a smear campaign against it by those who lost in the previous elections and cannot wait for 2004.

Socrates also dismissed the barangay officials' claim regarding their budget, saying there are other priority projects that need to be funded.

"The barangay officials expected to receive P1 million because it was the way of the previous administration. Now, we are only following (what is stated in) the Local Government Code. They (barangay officials) felt that it was a right on their part but there are more important projects to fund," Socrates said.

The city administration is also being blamed for the alleged proliferation of illegal activities in the city.

Some barangay captains also complained of illegal fishing, saying the sea seems like "New Year every day because of blast fishing."

Former City Mayor Edward Hagedorn also showed disgust over the situation of the city after the takeover of the new administration.

# Ex-mayor linked to killing of Ilocos auditor

VIGAN CITY—A former Ilocos Sur town mayor was suspected to be behind the killing of provincial auditor Agustin Chan and his driver in October last year in Bantay town, according to former Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"We have already some leads linking a former Ilocos Sur mayor, who was having problems on the unfavorable findings of the Commission on Audit," Singson told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

The former governor's disclosure was seen as a breakthrough to the eight-month-old case of Chan and his driver, who were killed in an ambush in Bantay on Oct. 4 while they were on their way to Baguio City.

Singson said they found that the COA was conducting an audit of the town of the former mayor when the ambush happened.

"We are very hopeful that the case will be solved soon to end all issues surrounding the killing," he said.

Earlier police investigation showed the killing was work-related. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

# Koreans in treasure hunt now wanted by BI agents

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Agents of the Bureau of Immigration here have started a manhunt against two Korean nationals blamed for the destruction of corals in a protected marine area in Kiamba, Sarangani.

The two suspects, identified only as a certain Mr. Kim and a Mr. Shin, earlier claimed they were looking for the Yamashita treasure in the seas off Barangay Lomoyon.

But residents, who alarmed government officials, said they were puzzled why the Koreans were packing the blasted corals and loading these into trucks.

The area is part of the Sarangani Protected Seascape.

Julius Jamorabon, BI alien control officer here, said the hunt for the Koreans should also involve locals.

He urged Lomoyon residents to apprehend the two once they return to the area.

Jamorabon said the Koreans, if sighted in the area, can immediately be arrested even without arrest warrants because it was clear they violated immigration, fisheries and environmental laws.

Felipe Juanday, a resident of Lomoyon who served as local liaison for the two Korean nationals, told reporters that his friends would still return to facilitate the shipment abroad of the blasted corals.

But Juanday claimed that Kim flew back to South Korea, while Shin was reportedly in Digos City.

Juanday could not give the complete names of the Koreans saying he did not see their passports.

Earlier, environment officials summoned the Koreans to a meeting. During the meeting, they bragged that Mala-cañang sanctioned their activities. One of them even flashed a blurred faxed copy of a supposed treasure-hunting permit issued by a Malacañang official.

But they could not produce an authenticated faxed copy demanded of them.

Meanwhile, Jamorabon said he had coordinated with the BI office in Davao City to ascertain the real identities of the Koreans.

He said charges will be filed against them in preparation for deportation proceedings. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# Senators reach deal to end impasse on July 22

BAGUIO CITY—Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said senators embroiled in a power play for Senate leadership have agreed to end their squabble before July 22, the start of Congress, to avoid a potentially bigger public backlash.

Biazon made the announcement here in a press conference on Wednesday, a day before Sen. Ramon Revilla's return from the United States.

Revilla's presence is expected to balance out the administration senators' numbers against the opposition's "new majority."

"All 24 members of the chamber are considering all possible solutions, so that on or before July 22, we will have resolved the impasse. All of us realized that the people will not forgive us, if this impasse is not broken before July 22 . . . when we are supposed to have started working again," he said.

The alternative would be a stalemate that would paralyze Congress next month, he said. "I assure you this impasse will be broken one way or the other," he said.

But Biazon said the agreement had not stopped the administration and opposition camps in the Senate from pursuing "poaching raids" on each other's parties.

"Courting and counter-courting (potential party recruits) are a tool in politics. Anybody who tells you courting is not happening is lying," he said. "And do not think that this courting and counter-courting are focused on an individual. No. They court most of us, we court most of them."

In fact, Biazon said, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) had allowed its members free rein on "conscience-led decisions," despite the senators' recruitment expeditions.

He said this was the same party principle, which allowed him to oppose deposed President Joseph Estrada during his impeachment trial without suffering reprisals from the LDP. The LDP, led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, then Estrada's executive secretary, had supported the former president throughout the aborted trial.

"My party allows me independence of mind, because that is a basic and fundamental issue. And I am not going to allow anyone to encroach upon my judgment as a human being, as one who fought for this country for so long," Biazon said.

The LDP policy could have a strong impact on how many of the opposition senators would end up voting to break the current impasse, a party source said.

The impending appointment of former Muntinlupa Mayor Ignacio Bunye as press secretary was supposedly a concession offered to Biazon, in exchange for his support to the administration bloc. His son is Bunye's congressional rival.

Biazon brushed this report aside as "pure speculation." ***Vincent Cabreza, with a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Hi33° Lo 25° |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 24° Lo 17° |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 33° Lo 22° |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 33° Lo 23° |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 24° |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 22° |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 23° |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 23° |
| Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 25° |
| Roxas | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 23° |
| Cebu | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 26° |
| Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 24° |
| Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 24° |
| Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 24° |
| Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 24° |
| Davao | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 24° |

Compiled by: Armin Adina, PDI Research/06/22/02

## ROUNDUP

### Rebels burn equipment

LEGAZPI CITY—At least P7 million worth of heavy construction equipment owned by the Precious Construction Co. were burned in Aroroy, Masbate at 4:30 p.m. Sunday by heavily armed men believed to be New People's Army rebels. A police report said 50 men armed with M16 and M1 rifles and wearing black sweatshirts, fatigue pants and combat boots attacked the construction firm and set on fire two of the firm's quarters, a pay loader, two dump trucks, a forward truck and another piece of equipment. Company owner Salvador Senar of Magarao, Camarines Sur said he did not know of any motive by the suspects in burning the equipment. ***Melanie J. Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Gang leader nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Police here arrested the alleged leader of a theft gang and his companion on Sunday. The suspect, Efren Bedrijo, 31, of Malabon City, and his companion Ysabel dela Cruz, 21, Navotas City, were identified as the ones responsible for the theft of several grocery items in the Liberty Commercial Center here. Recovered from the suspects were several cans of powdered milk worth about P50,000 and a red Mitsubishi Adventure with plate no. WDY-794, believed to be used by the two in their operation. A case has been filed against the two who are now detained at the city jail here. ***Melanie J. Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Wanted man arrested

LEGAZPI CITY—Camarines Norte's second most wanted man was arrested on Sunday, a police report said. Arrested by the Labo police was Ruperto "Popoy" Lopez of Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte. Lopez, 35, was charged with three counts of rape with no bail recommended. The suspect is now detained at the Labo District Jail. ***Melanie J. Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Robbers break into church

BACOLOD CITY—Unidentified suspects stole P82,190 worth of appliances and other items, including the priest's cassock, from a chapel in this city. The police said the robbery was discovered after Gualberto David Jurtado, 66, reported about noon on Tuesday that the Our Lady of the Snow Chapel was forced open. Taken were 11 wall fans worth 15,290, a stand fan worth P900, a sound system and amplifier worth P60,000, and three microphones worth P2,000 each. The suspects also took two cassocks of the priest. Police reports also said the robbers also destroyed a glass cabinet where the amplifier, microphones and the priest's vests, were kept. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

### Easing traffic

THE Toll Regulatory Board has allowed the Central Country Estate Inc. to construct and operate a temporary entry/exit point on Km. 21 of the northbound lane of the North Luzon Expressway. The temporary entry/exit will help alleviate monstrous traffic brought about by increased economic activities and development projects in Pampanga. It will also provide access to and from the North Luzon Expressway through the Mexico municipal road. The entry/exit is expected to be operational in a few months, according to a news release.

### 2 women electrocuted

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Two women in Pulilan town were electrocuted on Monday while they were hanging clothes in a grounded clothesline, reports reaching this camp said. Police identified the victims as Felisa Ramos, 46, and Sarah Competente, 31, both of Barangay Penabatan in Pulilan. Reports said the victims did not notice that a dangling live wire from a nearby electric post had touched the iron wire clothesline. Their neighbors said the victims were thrown a few meters after touching the grounded clothesline. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

### Killer gunned down

DAVAO CITY—Police operatives in Davao del Sur gunned down an alleged killer hired by a drug syndicate to go after an offending "client." Supt. Samuel Navaja, Davao del Sur police chief, identified the alleged gunman as Jose Balsak alias Jojo. Navaja said Balsak, who was fleeing after killing Sofronio Antipala of Digos City, engaged policemen in a shootout on Wednesday evening. He said elements of the 103rd Police Regional Mobile Group flagged down Balsak in Barangay Darong, Sta. Cruz. Instead of stopping, the suspect fired at the policemen. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

### 2 headless bodies found

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two headless bodies were separately recovered in Sumisip, Basilan recently. Col. Alexander Aleo, the 103rd Army Brigade commander, said one of the bodies belonged to Apelon Sahilin, 46 and a resident of Barangay Cabcaban. Sahilin was allegedly beheaded by Abu Sayyaf bandits on June 17. "Until now we cannot find his head. Sahilin was suspected by the bandits as a military agent," said Aleo. Investigation by the 32nd Infantry Battalion showed that Abu Sayyaf bandits Furuji and Samid Indama were behind the beheading. Another headless body was found in Barangay Upper Balwas, also in Sumisip, on Wednesday. The victim was identified as Asirin Adelon. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

FUNDS, GRANTS

# GMA backs rehab of rice terraces

**By Ben Moses Ebreo and Alfred Dizon**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

LAGAWE, Ifugao—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday committed fund assistance to help Ifugaos rehabilitate the world famous Ifugao rice terraces to boost tourism in the country.

In her speech during the 36th founding anniversary celebrations of Ifugao, the President said the government has received a $75,000 (P3.75 million) grant from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) for the preservation of the rice terraces.

She said the money will be turned over to the provincial government to design and implement programs for the rehabilitation and preservation of the terraces, the province's major tourist attraction.

"I do not believe in task forces. I believe in accountability resting in one office. Let the Unesco project be managed by the provincial government of Ifugao," Ms Macapagal said before 2,000 Ifugaos who attended the opening of the four-day event dubbed "Gotad ad Ifugao."

Ifugao officials gave Ms Macapagal a set of woven Ifugao dress that she wore during the celebrations.

Ms Macapagal said she proposed a "food for work program" to provide jobs for beneficiaries of the rice terraces when she was still vice president under the Banaue Rice Terraces task force.

"But I found out that I was the only one who was serious with my work in the task force," she said.

When she became president in 2001, she said she abolished the BRTTF. "The task force is only the provincial government of Ifugao. And if there are remaining funds from the defunct Banaue (rice terraces) task force, we will arrange to transfer the funds to the provincial government of Ifugao. Use it as a means to bring back tourists to Ifugao," Ms Macapagal said.

She said the Ifugaos should continue with their efforts to preserve the rice terraces.

She also instructed the Department of Tourism and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to provide technical support to the Ifugao government headed by Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr.

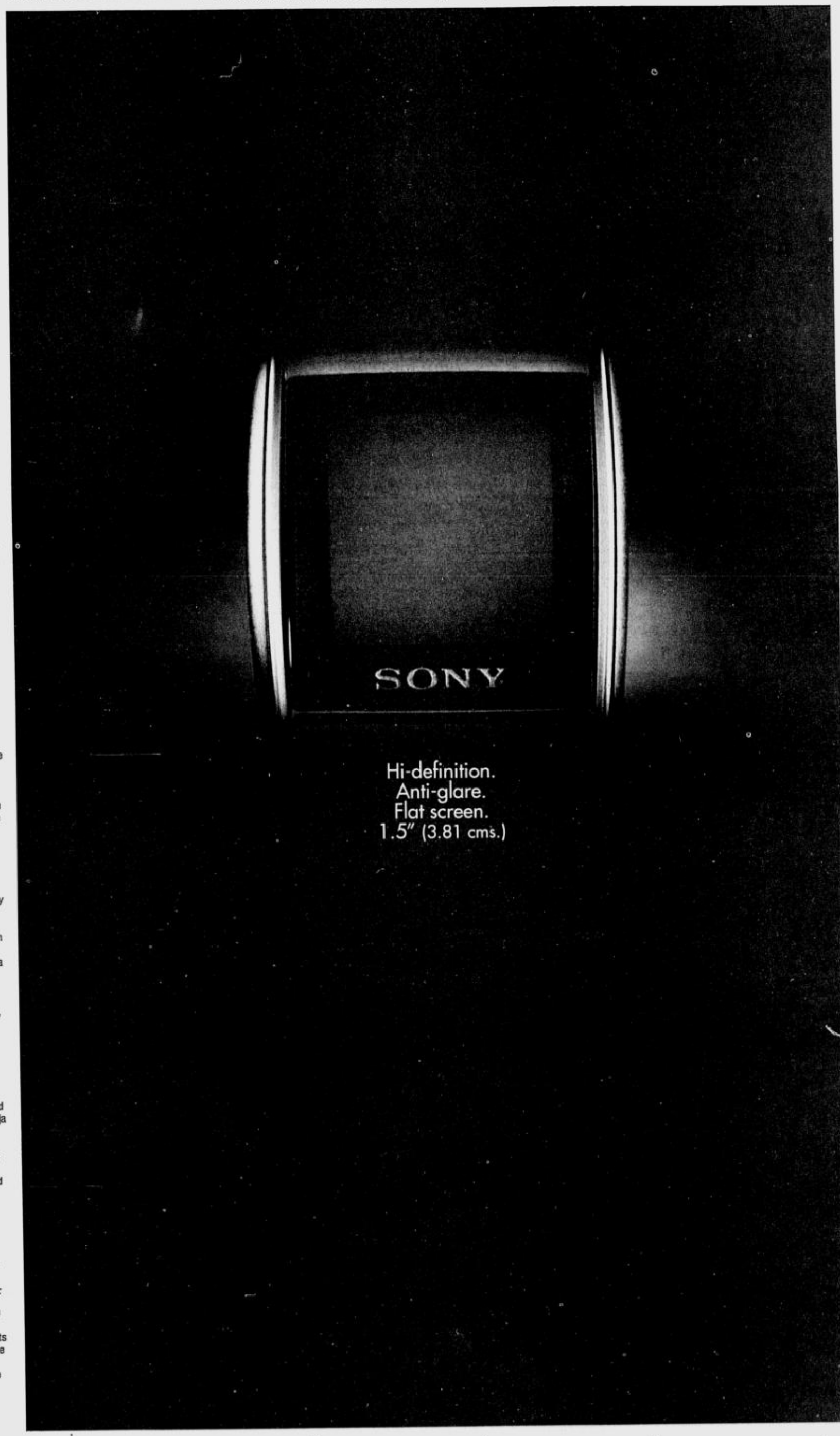
"As I have said in my State of the Nation Address (Sona), we will promote fast growing industries where high value jobs are most plentiful. One of them is tourism," Ms Macapagal said.

Among the most famous and revered of all natural wonders in the country are the Ifugao rice terraces because of their inscription as among Unesco's world heritage sites, she said.

"We have the competitive edge in tourism—in the natural wonders of our country and the natural warmth of our people in Ifugao," she said.

But Ms Macapagal said there is a conflict between the government's program on agricultural modernization and the rice terraces as a source of livelihood for the Ifugaos.

"The technology in the rice terraces is difficult if we compare it to the new technologies employed in modernization. That is why we have to consider the rice terraces not as agriculture but as our culture," she said.



INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

CULT AND CRIME

# When a 'god' loses wings and falls

**By Ivan P. Suansing**
*Cebu City*

**AFTER HIS fall, Ruben Ecleo Jr., the "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), who some of his followers say is god in disguise, will now have to deal with mundane laws.**

Ecleo was flown back to where his woes all started, Cebu City, to stand trial for the death of his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

The cult leader had been eluding the authorities since May 3 when a Cebu judge affirmed the validity of the warrant of arrest against him.

Before she was murdered, Alona, 27, was a graduating medical student at the Southwestern University. Her decomposing body was found on Jan. 8 inside a black garbage bag in a ravine at Sitio Butong, Barangay Coro, in Dalaguete, a southern town 85 km from Cebu City.

Police arrested Ecleo based on the account of Josebil Bacolod, Alona's brother who used to live with the couple in a compound in Sitio Banawa, Barangay Guadalupe, Cebu City.

A prime witness to the case against Ecleo, Josebil was lucky to survive the bloody attack on the Bacolod family in Barangay Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu last Tuesday night.

An Ingram-toting gunman sprayed bullets on clan members, as they were relaxing outside their home after dinner, killing Josebil's parents Elpidio, 65 and Rosalia, 58; brother Benjamin, 36 and sister Evelyn, 32.

Josebil was in another house with another brother, Niño, at the time of the assault.

Acting Cebu City Prosecutor Jose Pedrosa admitted the prosecution would have a weaker case without Josebil.

"Josebil's affidavit would be treated as a mere scrap of paper if he could no longer affirm his statements," Pedrosa said.

**Narration**

Josebil, 20, a sophomore BS Computer Science student, recalled that at 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2002, he heard "continuous slamming noise coming from the room of Alona."

Josebil, a PBMA member, said he was then inside his room in the annex house, some 15 meters from where the couple lived.

Alarmed by what he heard, Josebil said he went inside the main house "pretending to get a drink of water but purposely to verify what was happening."

The house was dim as the main lights were turned off, but he could see Ecleo, sweating and looking mean, Josebil said.

He told police that he later saw Ecleo and his bodyguard Juryven Padero load into the baggage compartment of a red Toyota Corolla "a big black garbage bag." They then sped off.

*'The house was dim as the main lights were turned off, but he could see Ecleo, sweating and looking mean, Josebil said. He told police that he later saw Ecleo and his bodyguard Juryven Padero load into the baggage compartment of a red Toyota Corolla "a big black garbage bag." They then sped off.'*

Corroborating Josebil's testimony, a security guard said he saw Ecleo Jr. and another person hurriedly leave on board a red Toyota at about 10 p.m. of the same night.

The following evening, Josebil said Ruben returned with his bodyguard and changed cars—from the red Toyota Corolla to a green Mitsubishi Strada pick-up—and then left.

Josebil said he tried calling her sister several times through her cell phone but she "could not be reached."

After Alona's corpse was found in Dalaguete, Josebil identified the bag "as the same one being carried by Ecleo and Padero."

Josebil claimed Ecleo was a drug addict and a womanizer, and frequently quarreled with his sister who was badgering him to undergo rehabilitation for drug addiction.

Police investigators found bloodstains in the shower curtain inside the toilet in the couple's bedroom. More bloodstains were found in a doormat and doorknob. The telephone line had been cut.

Ecleo, 47, was last seen in Cebu City on Jan. 8, the day the body of his wife was found.

Before he disappeared, he told cult members Alona would "reappear in March after completing a mission."

**Legal Battle**

Ecleo's lawyer, Orlando Salatandre, had gone to the Court of Appeals to question the validity of the arrest warrant issued against his client.

Among those named respondents in the petition for injunction are Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judges Olegario Sarmiento Jr. and Galicano Arriesgado.

Judge Arriesgado issued the first arrest warrant against Ecleo on April 24. Judge Sarmiento affirmed the warrant and issued another warrant of arrest last May 3 when Ecleo could not be located.

Salatandre told the appellate court he intended to file a petition for review with the Department of Justice to question the resolution of the Office of the Cebu City Prosecutor indicting Ecleo.

The Court of Appeals refused to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO), paving the way for police operations against the cult leader on Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte.

Salatandre also wants the venue of Ecleo's trial transferred to Manila.

Thelma Chiong, regional head of the Crusade Against Violence (CAV), said Ecleo should be tried in Cebu.

Chiong said her group, which has been providing assistance to the Bacolod family, will file separate murder charges against Ecleo for the massacre of four family members.

She is the mother of the two Chiong sisters, Jacqueline and Marijoy.

**THE cult leader on arrival at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City from his bastion on Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte.**
FILE/DENNIS SABANGAN

In the aftermath of the Dinagat bloodbath, where 16 cult members and a policeman were killed and two other policemen were injured, more charges are expected to rain on Ecleo.

The charges would include murder for the policeman's death, said Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police director.

Police will also file two counts of frustrated murder against Ecleo for the injuries suffered by two members of the arresting team, and another charge of illegal possession of firearms.

Olario reportedly saw Ecleo dance and wave his Ingram sub-machinegun as policemen were convincing the cult leader to give up.

Police are holding Ecleo responsible for the bloody encounter last Tuesday.

Last Sunday, the late Benjamin Bacolod told Cebu Daily News about a report from Dinagat Island: Ecleo had met his "armed angels" and urged them to fight.

Ecleo reportedly wore a red shirt with Latin prints, with a red cloth tied around his head to symbolize his "declaration of war."

The flag of the PBMA was reportedly inverted to support the war call.

Rep. Glenda Ecleo reacted strongly to the allegations against her son.

*"Mapapasubo lang ko sa ilang pamilya. Maguol man gani ta'g manok nga patyon, kana pa nga tawo man na,* (I would like to extend my condolences to the family. I would feel even sad when a chicken gets killed, what more a person)" she said. She said her son surrendered on his won will on Wednesday. She added that her son did not immediately give himself up because he had to talk to his followers.

## *Dumaguete cops keep fit through new 'racket'*

**By Alex V. Pal**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—Policemen in this city have found new toys befitting grown up boys.

More and more policemen here have found another thing that they find better to hold on to than guns—tennis rackets.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, policemen belonging to the Negros Oriental Provincial Police Office don their athletic uniforms and transform their camp's tennis court into a frenzy of activity.

"We started out with only four players eight years ago," recalled SPO4 Angelito Ramada, one of the pioneers of the Negros Oriental PNP Lawn Tennis Association and the volunteer caretaker of the tennis court.

From four players, the tennis court now has about 30 regular players.

The tennis court has also attracted nearby residents, who keep the area busy during non-athletic days.

Ramada said he learned to love the sport after he was designated as caretaker by then provincial commander, Supt. Ricardo F. de Leon, when the construction of the court started in 1989.

Ramada supervised each phase of the construction for five years until it became ready to be played on in 1994.

Senior Supt. Drusillo Bolodo, Negros Oriental police director, said the program has actually helped keep his policemen in shape.

Bolodo personally leads his men in playing the sport.

The policemen's tennis program got a needed boost this year with the arrival of three tennis instructors from the United States Tennis Association.

The three tennis instructors—Ted Sayrahder, Eddie Pasternak and Elmer Dolera—took on teaching the policemen as part of the yearly outreach program of the their group, called the Goodwill Tennis Tours.

Bolodo said they immediately enlisted for the tennis clinic upon learning that the instructors would be passing by Dumaguete as part of their goodwill tour.

The American instructors are holding this tennis clinic for the third time since November 2000.

Dolera, who also coordinates this program, said he hoped this clinic, which was initially held in the Philippines, would someday reach out to other countries like the US Peace Corps Program.

"It gets bigger and bigger each time," said Dolera, an American of Filipino parents.

"You can say this is like the Balikatan (joint RP-US military exercises). But in our case, we don't learn military tactics from the Americans but tennis," said Bolodo in jest.

# A secret for life

*Rowena V. Guanzon*

IT WAS in Mindanao where they met. My friend Rona was 20 and he was twice her age, a soft- spoken, charismatic man.

She taught in a Catholic college, was funny and bright, and lived in a small town where everyone knew everybody. Her days were uneventful if not for her volunteer church work, and they spent a lot of her free time together. Then he told her he was attracted to her and as the story went, she fell in love with him.

It would have been just another love story except that Cesar was a priest.

He still is a priest. And when she went to Manila for her master's degree, he found ways to visit twice a month.

After two years, Rona got pregnant.

She was not supposed to get pregnant, as she had emanjioma, or tumor of the blood vessel, which put her life at risk. Cesar knew this.

When Cesar learned that Rona was pregnant, he panicked.

Rona worried about her future but abortion was out of the question. And when he wanted her to live in a halfway house for unwed mothers managed by nuns, they quarreled.

He wanted to remain a priest. Rona's sisters felt that Cesar used his position as a priest, exploited Rona and breached the trust of their family.

To avoid the shame in their province, Rona's family relocated and hid her in Manila. When she gave birth to her daughter, she resolved to cut off her relationship with Cesar and demanded support for her child. She realized that he was selfish, a cowardly man who was more concerned with his public image than her well-being.

All that his bishop could say at first was, "my poor priest." His poor priest had sex with a poor young woman and thought he could get away with it.

But not with what he did to Rona. She demanded support for her daughter, and until now, Cesar contributes to her education.

The stories of other women are similar to Rona's. When the priest's superiors are told about his sexual relations, this is kept a secret to protect the image of the Church. He is allowed to continue his priesthood; she is exiled.

When the woman gets pregnant, she and her family suffer the blame, the shame, and the burden of having to support the child.

Some people say that to avoid problems like these, the Catholic Church should allow optional celibacy. But for priests like Cesar, optional celibacy won't work. He would still break his marital vows twice over.

*'All that his bishop could say at first was, "my poor priest." His poor priest had sex with a poor young woman and thought he could get away with it.'*

Priests like him are as unfaithful as any ordinary married man who claims it is his male privilege to have relations with other women.

The Church has forbidden marriage partly so as not to dissipate its wealth. But the vow of celibacy is so unrealistic. What happens then to children of priests who need financial support? Do their mothers have to keep their secrets for life and suffer poverty?

Some bishops have stated that pedophile and rapist priests should be exposed and prosecuted. But they will be mum about priests who have consensual affairs. Women in these cases are viewed as seductresses, while the "poor" priest, who confesses to his superior, is forgiven. The woman is blamed. But the priest, in no time, holds Mass again, lifting the chalice in front of the unsuspecting public as if he were the most holy and deserving man.

For comment, please send it to pdivis@skyinet.net

# Pa remembers him as playful; neighbor says he was a joker

From page A1

later, leaving a priest and at least 20 others dead in the hands of their abductors.

Sabaya and his group escaped. They were later found in Sulu joining a faction of the Abu Sayyaf in Patikul town.

In December 2000, Sabaya was reported killed as he and several other Abu Sayyaf members were trying to escape from Sulu. The reports, which the military doubted, said Sabaya fell off a pumpboat and was presumed to have drowned.

He was later reported to be holding hostage American Jeffrey Schilling and Filipino Roland Ullah in Basilan.

Schilling was rescued on April 12 last year. There was no word about Ullah, one of those seized by the Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf group led by Commander Robot from a diving resort in Sipadan, Malaysia.

### A Tausog

Sabaya was born on July 18, 1962 in Barangay Carbon on Malamawi Island in Isabela, Basilan.

Sabaya, a Tausog, is also known to his friends on Malamawi as Abu Asmad Salayudi, Ahmed Salayuddin and Hadji Aldam.

His father Arola Tilao said Sabaya was a very "determined but playful man." But a military information sheet described him as "hot-tempered."

Sabaya's parents are separated. His mother is living in Barangay Balas in Lamitan and his father, along with his two brothers and two sisters, in Malamawi.

Sabaya had married twice. His first wife was Joy Enriquez whom he met in Medina, Saudi Arabia, and with whom he had three children. He married his second wife, a cousin of Galib Andang alias Robot, in Sulu two years ago. Sabaya has a 5-year-old son named Ahmad Tilao.

### Joker, truant

Soraida Edris, an executive producer of ABS-CBN Zamboanga and one of Sabaya's neighbors and playmates, said he was a "joker."

"I was shocked when I met him two years ago on Mount Mahadji where he became very serious. But he was not *bastos*."

"I interviewed him twice. In fact, he sent me a letter which he signed as Amhad Salayuddin when he was still in Saudi Arabia," Edris said.

"He was a truant. What he wants, he gets," Edris said.

He finished his primary and secondary education in Basilan and he later took college in Zamboanga City's AE Colleges from 1982 to 1985, according to a document released by the military.

Dr. Ruben Sta. Teresa, dean of the College of Criminology at the Zamboanga AE College, said Tilao was one of his serious students. Tilao did not finish his four-year course for unknown reasons.

"We did not encounter any problems with him. I don't remember he was in the office for misbehavior. He was an average student," Sta. Teresa said.

Allan Cajucom, a former classmate of Sabaya and connected with the Philippine National Red Cross, said Sabaya was a good soccer player in Basilan.

Sabaya established close ties with Alvin Siglos, who shared the same sports. Cajucom met Sabaya during college days, but Siglos was "his best friend since they were small."

The military said Sabaya went to Saudi Arabia as a contract worker.

### Training in Libya

Sabaya trained in Libya sometime in the 1990s, according to the military. He was said to be a veteran of the Chad wars in Central Africa.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said Sabaya's training in Libya was sponsored by the Moro National Liberation Front.

"But he led the walkout then, bringing around 20 or so followers," Akbar said.

Akbar said he learned about Sabaya joining the Abu Sayyaf when he was still outside the country. Sabaya returned to Basilan in 1999.

"A few months later . . . the subject proclaimed himself as the one who will replace Abu Sayyaf leader Ustadz Abdurajak Janjalani," the military said. Janjalani, who fought in Afghanistan as a mujahideen against the Soviets, died in 1998 in a firefight with government forces.

Sabaya's dream of replacing Janjalani was dashed when Janjalani's brother, Khadaffy, was named leader of the Abu Sayyaf, according to the military.

### Talkative

"He loves to talk and talk, *pero wala namang laman*, but he's a mere follower of Khadaffy who calls the shots every time," Akbar said.

The governor said Sabaya's popularity made him "*mayabang* (smug), *pero duwag yan* (but a coward)." Akbar recalled that Sabaya wore a Muslim woman's dress to evade soldiers in Lantawan.

On May 27, 2001, Sabaya's group seized three Americans and 17 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

The bandits brought their hostages to Basilan. Days later, the hostages and their captors went to Lamitan town where they were holed up in a hospital for a day.

Surrounded by tanks and soldiers, the bandits were able to escape with most of their hostages.

On June 12 last year, Sabaya told Radio Mindanao Network in Zamboanga City that his group had "released" the headless body of one of the American hostages, Guillermo Sobero, as an "Independence Day present" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sabaya said Sobero's body was left on a roadside in Tuburan town. But government troops found nothing. Two months later, the skeletal remains believed to be those of Sobero's were found.

It was not the first time Sabaya's group made good its threat to behead hostages. In April 2000, his group beheaded two hostages as a birthday gift for then President Joseph Estrada.

### Another escape

With only three hostages—American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap, Sabaya's group escaped Basilan. They were later found in Zamboanga del Norte in an encounter with government troops in Sirawai town on June 7. In that clash, Martin Burnham and Yap were killed. A wounded Gracia was rescued.

Still, Sabaya escaped. But the military was sure that Sabaya and his group of at least 10 men were holed up in Sirawai.

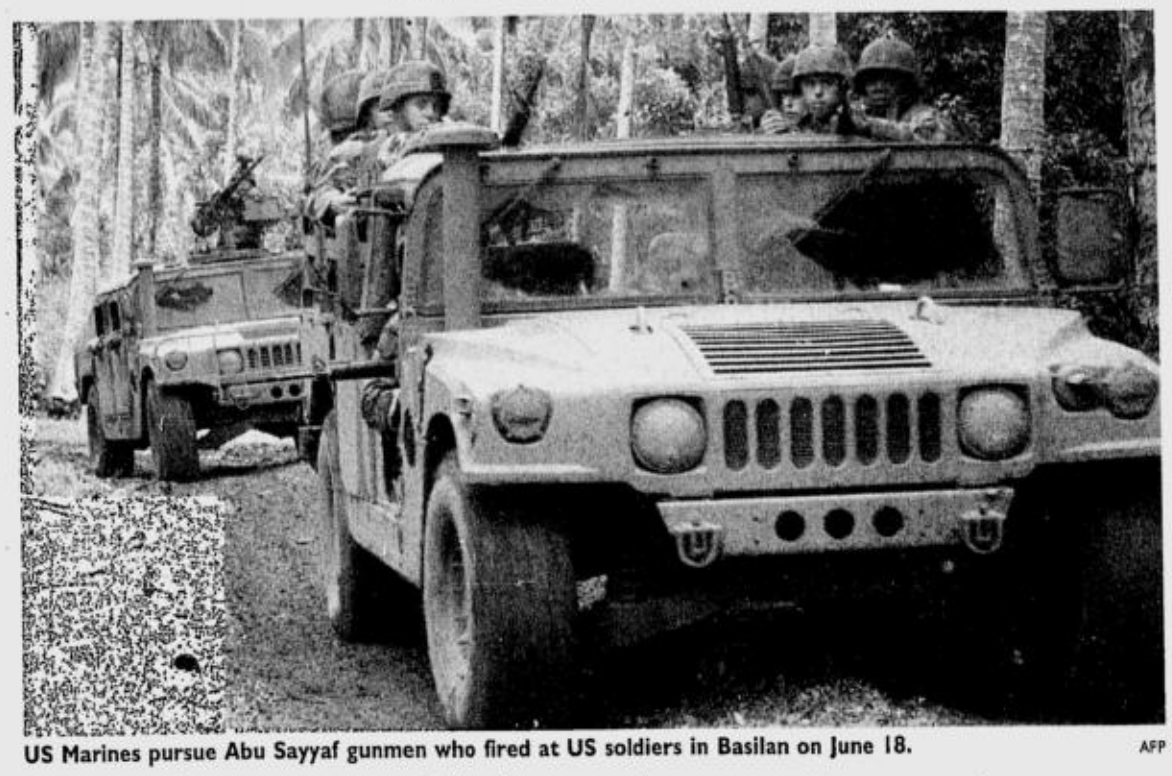
Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, chief of Task Force Comet, the lead group in the operations against the bandit group, said Sabaya's world was "getting smaller and smaller every hour of the day."

Zamboanga del Norte was no longer Sabaya's territory. Basilan was.

"Their (Abu Sayyaf's) end is near," Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, said on June 11.

Late yesterday afternoon (4 p.m.), Cimatu confirmed that it was indeed Sabaya who was killed in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

SABAYA with Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani. AFP



US Marines pursue Abu Sayyaf gunmen who fired at US soldiers in Basilan on June 18. AFP

# GMA: Balikatan to end as scheduled in July

A US counterterrorism exercise to help Filipino soldiers destroy the Abu Sayyaf group's remnants in the southern Philippines will end as scheduled in July, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Many residents of Basilan, the southern island base of the Moro extremist group, have been clamoring for an extension of the US military presence there to ensure the bandits are wiped out and American military infrastructure projects are completed.

The exercises, dubbed "Balikatan" or shoulder to shoulder, will end on July 31, Ms Macapagal said in a statement. But she added without elaborating that more exercises would be scheduled.

War drills are regularly held in northern Philippine military camps, but Ms Macapagal and US President George Bush agreed in November on the current maneuvers on Basilan to enable the Americans to advise and train Filipino soldiers how to better fight the al Qaida-linked bandits.

The Americans also allowed the use of their sophisticated surveillance equipment to help local troops track the rebels and their last three hostages, including Wichita, Kansas, missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham.

Troops clashed with their captors in the jungles of southern Zamboanga del Norte province, near Basilan, on June 7. Gracia Burnham was wounded and rescued but her husband and the third hostage, nurse Edibora Yap, were killed.

Defense officials said earlier this week that the Pentagon had approved a plan to allow American troops nearer frontlines in Basilan, which would mean they could go beyond local battalion headquarters, where they are currently limited, and accompany smaller company units.

Under the terms of the exercise, American troops are allowed to carry firearms but can only fire in self-defense.

Allowing the Americans to shift to the company level would expose them to greater security risks in Basilan, where remnants of the Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim guerrilla groups operate.

The US military presence is a sensitive topic in this former American colony. Left-wing groups have mounted small but boisterous protests to oppose the exercise. *AP*

# Loss . . .

From page A1

government troops two weeks ago, according to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Reyes, however, surmised that what finally did Sabaya in were the US-supplied night vision goggles worn by an elite Special Warfare Group (SWAG) unit during Friday's gunbattle off Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte.

"Sabaya's luck ran out because the military recovered his *agimat* (amulet) when troops rescued the Burnhams," said Reyes, who went to the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday to confer with Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. regarding the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement.

"He got lucky several times. Now, he's presumed dead," the defense secretary told DFA reporters.

The signature dark glasses had served Sabaya well in the jungles of Basilan or Sulu. He would never face newsmen and TV cameras without his Oakleys.

Donning a black bandana wrapped around his balding head and a matching black T-shirt, Sabaya projected an image of a ruthless bandit who would carry out his threat of beheading a hostage if ransom were not paid.

The military reported that Sabaya managed to elude pursuing troops in numerous encounters—with nary a scratch to his sunglasses.

On June 7, however, Army Scout Rangers recovered Sabaya's pair of signature dark glasses in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, following a fierce firefight with his bandit group that was holding a US missionary couple and a Filipino nurse. Gracia Burnham was rescued, but Martin Burnham and Edibora Yap were killed.

Sabaya escaped again, but without his Oakleys.

Two weeks later, a special Navy team in night vision goggles caught up with Sabaya off the coast of nearby Sibuco town and finished him off.

"Our soldiers pressed on and did not let their guard down," Reyes said.

"Sabaya's death shows that crime does not pay and evil will not prevail."

# Asteroid . . .

From page A1

cades," he said.

The last time any asteroid came this close was in 1994, according to the Near Earth Object Information Center in Britain.

The big rock had a diameter of roughly 50 meters to 120 meters. The size of asteroids is estimated by measuring their brightness, without knowing their composition.

It would not have caused global catastrophe had it struck Earth. That would take an asteroid of several kilometers in diameter.

But, if it had hit Earth, it had the potential to cause as much local devastation as a 1908 hit in Tunguska, Siberia, which flattened some 2,000 square km of forest. The asteroid's air blast was believed to have done the damage, since no crater was found.

In general, damage on the ground depends on what an asteroid is made of, varying from solid metal to a loosely bound aggregate.

### Not the last

An asteroid the size of 2002MN may hit Earth about once every hundred years or so, causing local damage but no disaster to civilization or the planet's ecosystem, Stokes said

"There is a slim chance it could hit in 2061," Marsden said, putting that chance at about one in 100,000.

"At some level, it behooves us to look out for these things," he said.

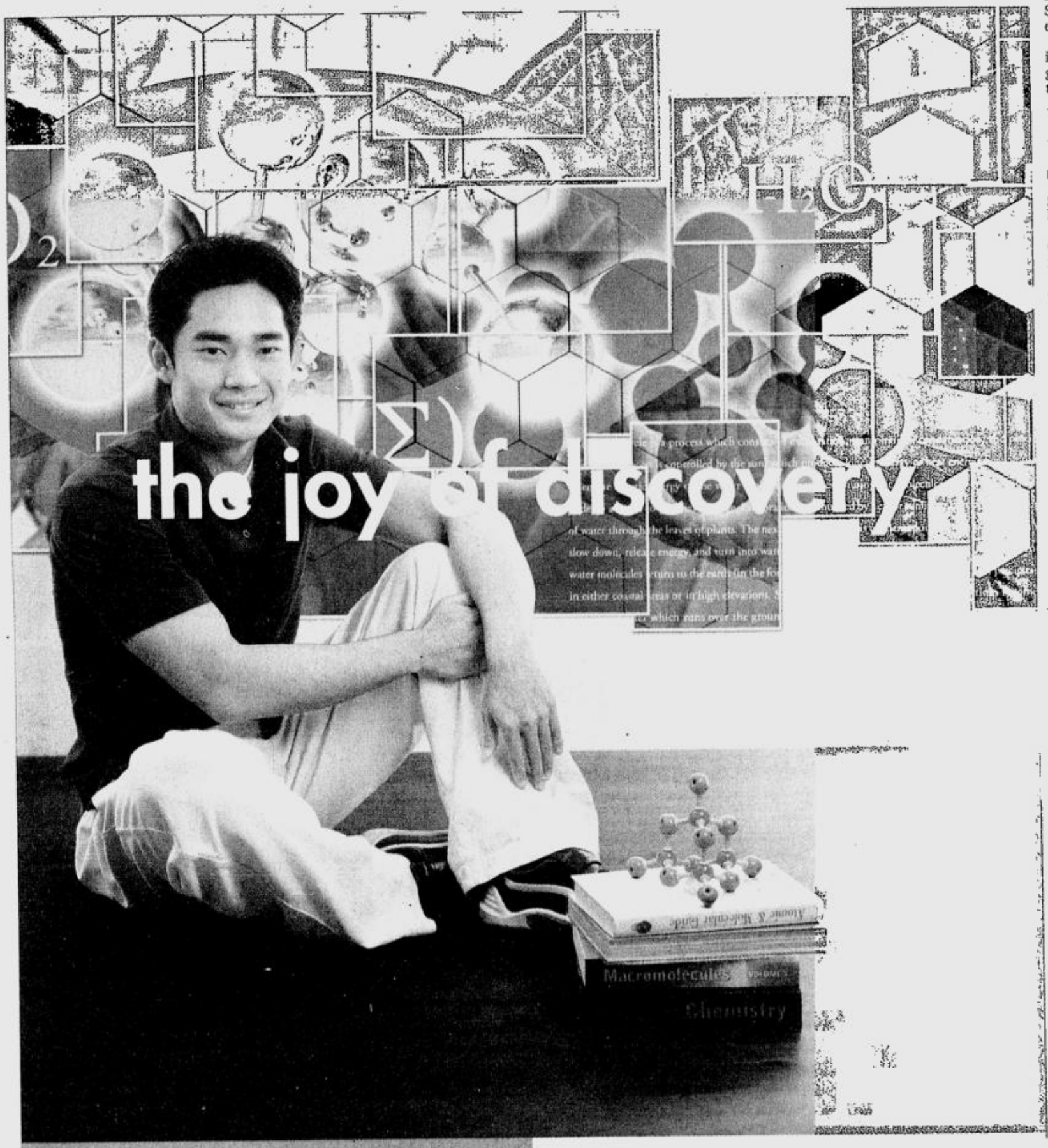
Stokes said the passing of such asteroids was "something the public should know about, but shouldn't get nervous about."

"Civilization has to get used to them on some level," Stokes said.

At present, there is no dedicated program searching for objects of 2002MN's size. Nasa concentrates its efforts on bodies bigger than a 1 kilometer across.

"NASA has a goal of discovering and obtaining good orbits for all the near earth objects with diameters larger than 1 km," said Thomas Morgan, a scientist at Nasa headquarters in Washington. "Asteroids of this size could potentially destroy civilization as we know it."

Such asteroids could theoretically hit Earth every million years, or at longer intervals. *Reuters, AP*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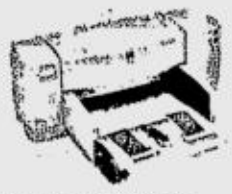

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# Ecleo suitcase yields 'shabu'

From page A1

the identity of the person who put his client's belongings in the suitcase.

### Tight security

Ecleo arrived in Cebu City yesterday morning amid tight security.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas, and Supt. Edwin Diocos, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief for Central Visayas, led about 50 policemen who fetched Ecleo from the Mactan Cebu International Airport at about 9:30 a.m.

More than 200 heavily armed policemen were also deployed to secure areas where Ecleo would be brought.

Clad in a white *kamisa de chino* shirt and khaki pants, Ecleo was immediately brought to a white van that took him to the CIDG headquarters on Gorordo Avenue.

At least 12 vehicles full of heavily armed policemen, escorted the van. People on sidewalks made thumbs-down signs as the convoy traversed Gorordo Avenue from the airport.

When he arrived at the camp, more than 20 anti-riot policemen were stationed at the gates.

At the CIDG, police took Ecleo's thumbprints, fingerprints and mug shots. The suspect was also subjected to medical and dental tests before he was presented to the media.

### Denial

During a press conference, Ecleo denied killing his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo. "How can one love his wife and then kill her later?" he said.

He also extended his condolence to his in-laws as he denied any involvement in the massacre in Mandaue City on Tuesday that left four members of the Bacolod family dead.

After a 20-minute press conference, Ecleo was brought to the Palace of Justice to be presented to Judge Galicano Arriesgado who issued the arrest warrant against Ecleo for the parricide case.

At least 200 people gathered at the Palace of Justice to catch a glimpse of the 47-year-old cult leader.

Ecleo was also suspected to be behind the killing of Elipido Bacolod, 65; his wife Rosalia, 58; eldest son Ben, 36 and daughter Evelyn, 21.

The man who shot them was confirmed to be a PBMA member.

### Taunts

As soon as Ecleo got out from the vehicle, the people booed him and called him names.

*"Ibitay, ibitay* (Hang him, hang him)," a group shouted.

*"Kung Ginoo ka sa PBMA, pagbuhat ug milagro* (If it is true that you are a God in the PBMA, then perform a miracle)," another person taunted Ecleo, believed by his followers to have healing powers.

A member of the Civilian Security Unit saw an unidentified man, reportedly armed with a knife, attempting to get near Ecleo. The man was stopped by his police escorts.

Ruben Rabago said he tried to chase after the man but the man had mixed with the crowd. He said Ecleo's escorts did not see the knife.

Ecleo, however, received a warm welcome from inmates at the city jail where he was brought after he was presented to Judge Arriesgado.

*"Idol ka namin . . . idol ka namin,"* the inmates chanted as Ecleo was being escorted to the infirmary II, which has been converted into a detention cell due to lack of space inside the BBRC.

### Home

The cell was about 10 by 5 meters with a toilet inside. Ecleo would share the cell with six other inmates who are facing charges ranging from illegal drugs to murder.

The inmates even set aside a wooden bed for Ecleo with mattress and a pillow. They vowed that Ecleo would not even be "pinched" during his stay at the BBRC.

Alimar Luna, considered the governor of the BBRC inmates, came to the defense of Ecleo.

"We don't condemn him, just like us he is facing a case where the court should be the sole judge (if) he is guilty or not (sic)," he said.

"We don't have the right to condemn him that is why we welcome him here, we are not afraid of him," he added.

But Ecleo was not in the mood for the welcome gesture. He complained of the heat inside his cell and said he would request for an electric fan.

The cultist leader would apparently stay at the BBRC longer as the police planned to file additional charges against him following the discovery of the three packs of shabu inside a soap bar in his luggage.

Salantarde, however, filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking to transfer the venue of the trial to Manila for security reasons.

### Surprise

Top officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), who witnessed the search, were surprised by the discovery of shabu in Ecleo's luggage.

They were CIDG chief Nestorio Gualberto, Razon, Diocos, Supt. Josephus Angan, Cebu City police chief; and Supt. Lita Quilaton, BBRC warden.

Cebu City Councilor Sylvan Jakosalem and Salantarde also witnessed the search.

Gualberto said he would conduct an investigation to determine why his men in Camp Crame failed to detect the drugs.

He said the soap as well as other personal belongings such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo were handed over to Ecleo by PBMA members just before he departed to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday.

CHIEF Insp. Oscar Capanas (center) and JO1 Aleth Romanillos (right) show three small packs of shabu found in Ruben Ecleo Jr.'s belongings. JUNJIE MENDOZA

Gualberto said the belongings were never subjected to inspection because of time constraint. He said Ecleo's escorts from Dinagat received the items and immediately placed them inside the green bag.

"The soap was sealed. Apparently it appeared that the seal was not original. When the BJMP official opened it, the packs containing (shabu) were found," said Razon.

He said the Cebu City Police Office would file the case against Ecleo for possession of shabu once the PNP Crime Laboratory confirmed that the substance was shabu.

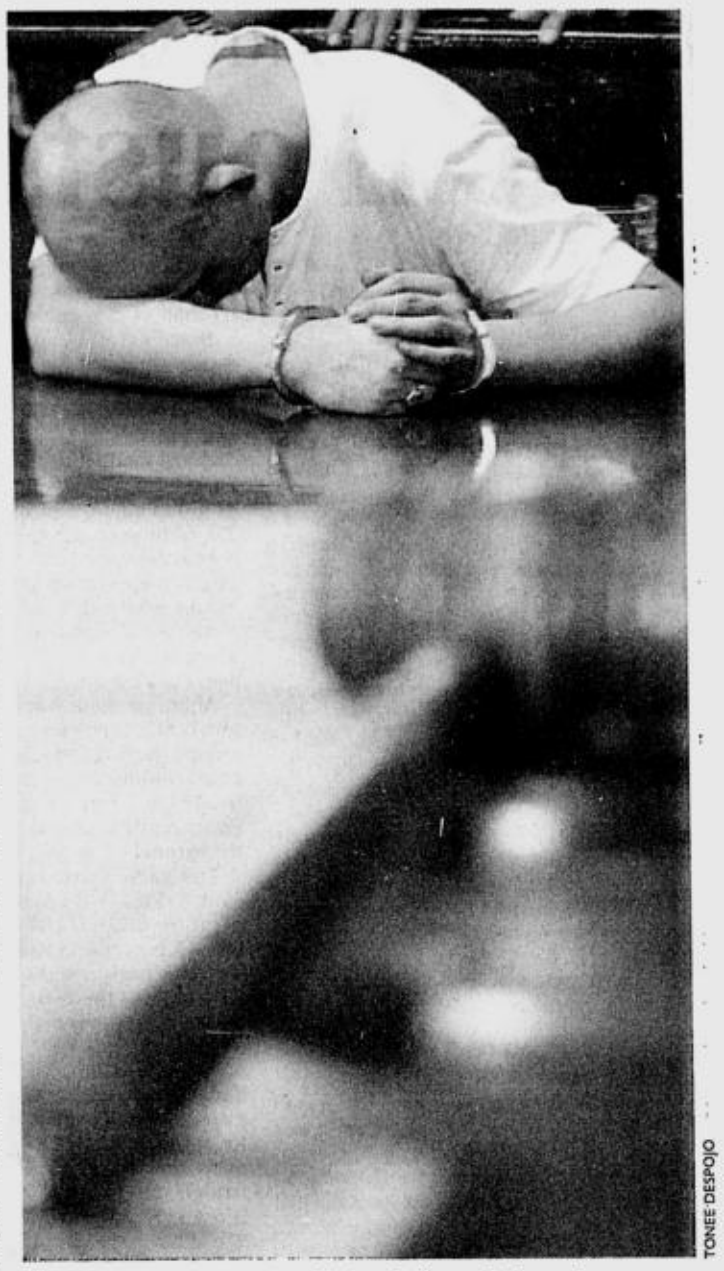
If the case pushed through, it would be another legal woe for the cult leader who is already facing parricide for the death of his wife.

The decomposing body of Alona, 27, was found inside a garbage bag on Jan. 8 in Dalaguete town, about 85 kilometers south of this city. Autopsy report showed she died of strangulation.

### Other charges

The CIDG also planned to file charges of murder, attempted murder and illegal possession of firearms against Ecleo in connection with the assault on Ecleo's bastion on Dinagat Island that resulted in the death of 16 cult members and two policemen.

Ecleo also faces multiple murder charges for the massacre of his in-laws on Tuesday night. A brother-in-law, who was among those slain, was a witness to Alona's murder.



MASTER Ecleo at the sala of Judge Galicano Arriesgado. TONEE DESPOJO


Republic of the Philippines
**NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION**
Makati City

***EXTENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF R.A. 8501 (HOUSING LOAN CONDONATION ACT OF 1998)***

In response to the requests from delinquent NHMFC borrowers to enable them to update their loans with less burden, the NHMFC Board approved, under Resolution No. 3188, the extension of the Implementation of R.A. 8501, otherwise known as the Housing Loan Condonation Act of 1998, from January 01, 2002 to December 31, 2002.

Relative thereto, the following Implementing Rules and Regulations on the condonation of penalties under the extended Implementation of R.A. 8501 are hereby promulgated, to wit:

**SECTION 1. COVERAGE**

a. The Condonation program shall be availed of from March 08, 1998, the effectivity of the law, to December 31, 2002, and shall cover accounts under the three (3) major programs administered by the Corporation, namely: Unified Home Lending Program, Community Mortgage Program, Folio I Program, including the PEA accounts;

b. The housing loan borrowers on record, including successors-in-interest/legal heirs and those with overdue accounts or whose loan terms have expired, heirs of deceased borrowers with unpaid balance at the time of death and borrowers of foreclosed accounts with unexpired rights of redemption and/or where the titles to their properties are not yet consolidated in the name of NHMFC, provided the rights or interests on such accounts have not yet been sold/assigned by NHMFC to third parties subject to the conditions imposed under Section 8, Subsections (d), (e), and (f) hereof, shall be eligible under the Penalty Condonation Program.

c. Borrowers/buyers of acquired assets/assignments of foreclosure and mortgage rights with unpaid balance on the purchase price being amortized with NHMFC;

d. In case of loans granted under the Community Mortgage Program, whereby the Association is the borrower, total penalties on the collective arrearages of the Association may be condoned and pro-rated among member-beneficiaries.

**SECTION 2. REQUIRED DOWNPAYMENT**

Availment of the Extended Penalty Condonation Program shall be subject to actual payment of the required downpayment as follows:

a. Thirty Percent (30%) of the total arrearages on Principal and interest, exclusive of insurance premiums which should be updated, for accounts with previous amortization payments;

b. Full updating of all arrearages including insurance premiums (except penalty charges) for accounts/loans with no payment since take-out.

c. Borrowers who have availed of penalty condonation and restructuring benefits after December 31, 2001 but before the issuance of this Office Order are covered by the actual downpayments imposed at the time of availment. In all cases, the required downpayment may be completed within Thirty (30) calendar days.

**SECTION 3. AMOUNT OF PENALTY TO BE CONDONED**

The amount of penalty to be condoned shall be proportional to the amount of arrearages paid by the borrower provided that:

a. The borrower must not have availed of any previous condonation whereby any part of the penalties due was effectively condoned. For those borrowers who availed of the updating scheme of NHMFC whereby the penalties due were not assessed, the remaining arrearages on the monthly amortizations due shall be restructured within the remaining term of the original loan;

b. As provided for under Section 2 hereof, updating of all unpaid insurance premiums shall also be a pre-requisite to the availment of the penalty condonation benefits, whether partial or full updating.

**SECTION 4. COMPUTATION OF PENALTIES TO BE CONDONED**

a. In case of full payment of the loan or full updating of arrearages, all penalties due shall be condoned;

b. In case of partial updating of arrearages, the penalties to be condoned shall be proportionate to the amount of partial payment made in relation to the total unpaid delinquent principal and interest amortizations;

c. The balance of the uncondoned penalties after partial updating as applicable shall be recorded as memo entry until the total outstanding loan shall have been fully paid. The amounts from said entry shall correspondingly decrease in proportion to the monthly arrearages paid.

**SECTION 5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RESTRUCTURED LOANS**

The restructured loan (consisting of the original loan and the arrearages restructured under R.A. 8501) shall have the same due date as the original loan and shall be amortized during the remaining term of the loan.

The borrower may opt to extend the term of the loan up to four (4) years provided he is eligible for MRI coverage.

**SECTION 6. ACCOUNTS DELINQUENT DUE TO DEFECTIVE HOUSING UNITS**

In case the borrower incurred delinquencies due to complaints against defective or substandard housing unit and/or because the subdivision improvement/development and/or basic amenities such as water, light, drainage, good roads and others as specified in the Development Permit as approved by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board or the pertinent regulatory body/agency are not met, then the loan account shall be subject to the benefits of this Condonation Program, provided that:

a. The complaint was lodged/filed with either the HLURB or any government agency as of March 08, 1998;

b. The alleged defects in the construction/improvement as determined by either the Home Guaranty Corporation (in case the housing unit is covered by its Confirmation of Completion and Appraisal (COCA) or by representatives of NHMFC, still subsist;

c. In case the claimed construction defects were already repaired/cured as per notice to the borrower but the borrower still persists to refuse/fail to pay the arrearages and the required periodic amortizations of the loan (including the restructured portion), then HGC or NHMFC shall call the services of either the local government or HLURB Civil Engineer or any licensed Civil Engineer to attest to the repair/curing of the construction defects. The penalty to be condoned on these cases shall be only up to the date when the completion/curing of the construction defects shall have been completed;

d. In cases when the services of another Civil Engineer is engaged to affirm the curing / repair of construction defects, then the costs thereof shall be added to the borrower after due notice of the hiring of such services is made because of the borrower's refusal to confirm/accept the repaired/cured construction defects.

**SECTION 7. PROCESSING FEE**

A processing fee of Php. 500.00 shall be charged per account for full updating and full settlement, while a Php. 1,000.00 processing fee shall be charged per account for application for restructuring program.

In the case of CMP accounts, an individual beneficiary applying for penalty condonation shall be charged a processing fee of Php. 200.00. However, if it is the Community Association which will apply for penalty condonation, the processing fee shall be Php. 1,000.00 to be pro-rated among the delinquent member-beneficiaries in accordance with apportioned penalties to be condoned.

**SECTION 8. OTHER PROVISIONS**

a. The benefits under R.A. 8501 may be allowed to qualified borrowers under the existing Affordable Payment Plan (APP) subject to the terms and conditions of the said program;

b. Borrowers who have made payments/proposed to restructure/update their accounts under the existing Restructuring/Updating Program of the Corporation, especially under the Six-Months Updating Scheme and have not completed the required downpayment thereof, may choose to avail of the benefits of the Condonation Program and whatever downpayments made shall be treated as ordinary payments at the time tendered and shall not be included in the computation of downpayments under this extended implementation of the Condonation Program;

c. Borrowers who availed of the Six-Months Updating Plan, whether complied or lapsed, may be allowed to avail of the benefits of R.A. 8501;

d. Borrowers with accounts already foreclosed but the titles to the properties are not consolidated in the name of the Corporation and whose mortgage rights have not yet been sold to third parties, upon showing of capacity to pay as defined under NHMFC's Refinancing Program and only with prior written approval of Management, may be allowed to avail of the benefits of this Program, provided that all expenses relative to the foreclosure are paid plus the accrued interest on the loan from the time of foreclosure, in addition to the required downpayment under Section 2 hereof. Tendered payments without compliance to the above-stated conditions shall be treated as partial payment for redemption or deficiency claim of NHMFC, whichever is applicable;

e. For accounts of borrowers wherein the mortgage rights of the Corporation over them have already been sold to third party buyers, the benefits of this program shall no longer apply unless the borrower is eligible under NHMFC's Refinancing Program, and the third-party buyer waives his rights in favor of the original borrower/mortgagor; otherwise, the only remedy of the original borrower is his right of redemption under the law. In cases where the buyer of the mortgage right waives the same in favor of the mortgagor, the latter shall put up as downpayment an amount equivalent to the amount of deposit to be refunded to the former, but not lower than thirty percent (30%) or full updating of all arrearages required under Section 2 hereof, or the total downpayment on the agreed purchase price whichever is higher, plus incidental expenses of the sale of the account such as foreclosure costs, taxes and other related expenses that may have been incurred by the buyers. Incidental expenses if not coursed through or paid for by NHMFC, may be reimbursed by the mortgagor/borrower directly to the buyer and acknowledgement of which should be submitted to NHMFC, before a refinancing and availment of penalty condonation may be considered, provided that the conditions and required approval process under item (d) above shall likewise be observed;

f. Foreclosure proceedings on delinquent accounts is not suspended, except when the delinquent borrowers signify their intentions in writing, to avail of the benefits of the Program before the auction date and has actually put up the required downpayment and reimbursement of initial or actual foreclosure expenses that may have been incurred.

g. In case of Folio I borrowers with PAG-IBIG/Open Housing loans who have fully paid, restructured or updated their PAG-IBIG accounts prior to March 08, 1998, the Open Housing portion of the loan may qualify under the penalty condonation benefits of R. A. 8501, provided that the PAG-IBIG loan portion has been granted the same benefits under HDMF's Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 8501.

**SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONDONATION PROGRAM**

To ensure the effective implementation of this Condonation Program, all Collection Groups administering the different Lending Programs are hereby tasked with the responsibilities and authority to process and approve all requests for condonation of penalties and restructuring of eligible accounts covered by their respective areas.

In case of accounts being serviced by the Regional/Satellite Offices, the respective heads are authorized to process penalty condonation applications subject to the approval of the Vice President, Regional Operations Group.

All approved applications under the R.A. 8501 shall finally be confirmed by the NHMFC President.

**SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY**

The above Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 8501 shall be effective immediately.

For implementation and compliance.

**ATTY. ANGELICO T. SALUD**
President

## RONALDINHO, RIVALDO SIZZLE

# Brazil ousts England, 2-1

**GAMES TODAY** *(Quarterfinals)*
2:30 p.m.–Spain vs South Korea (Gwangju)
7:30 p.m.–Senegal vs Turkey (Osaka)

**SHIZUOKA, Japan—Ronaldinho produced two moments of World Cup magic and then was shown the red card as Brazil reached the semifinal for the ninth time on Friday by beating England 2-1.**

After Michael Owen had given England a 23rd minute lead, the youngest of Brazil's "Three R's" set up an equalizer for Rivaldo just before half time with a brilliant 40-meter run.

Six minutes into the second half, the Paris St. Germain forward curled in a 30-meter free kick to put his team ahead.

He took little further part in the game, however, because Mexican referee Felipe Ramos harshly showed him the red card in the 57th minute for a foul on Danny Mills. He will miss the semifinal against either Turkey or Senegal.

The result underlined Brazil's status as tournament favorite as the World Cup's most successful team chases its fifth title. Brazilian captain Cafu said he was confident his squad would now be crowned world champion.

"We will get there," he said."We're already among the four best, and God willing, we'll be the best."

Brazil's victory brought to an end England's impressive run under Swedish coach Sven-Goran Eriksson.

"I think we did rather well but I had hoped we would have done a bit better when it was 11 against 10," the Swede said.

"We were tired and Brazil were very good at keeping the ball. We could not keep the ball and then they had seven or eight players when they won it keeping it. They were better than us at keeping the ball.

Brazil's World Cup record against England is now three wins and one draw. After each of the three previous meetings, Brazil has gone on to win the World Cup — in 1958, '62 and '70.

Brazil made it to the last eight by beating Turkey 2-1, China 4-0 and Costa Rica 5-2 in its group games and then downing Belgium 2-0 in the second round.

England started with a 1-1 tie with Sweden, edged championship favorite Argentina 1-0, and drew 0-0 with Nigeria in Group F. It then scored a 3-0 victory over a Danish team which had just beaten defending champion France 2-0.

Although there was a colorful mixture of red, white and yellow spread around the Ecopa stadium, England clearly outnumbered the Brazilian followers. Among them was Prince Andrew, second in line to the throne.

The game started under sunny skies, with a temperature of 28 C (82 F) and 47 percent humidity. The early stages were slow as the two teams tested each other out.

After Ronaldo had swapped passes with Rivaldo only to shoot straight at David Seaman, England went ahead thanks to a defensive blunder by Lucio.

Emile Heskey found space in midfield and opted to float the ball forward to Owen. Lucio had the advantage but the Bayer Leverkusen defender lost control on the edge of his own area and Owen was left with the easy task of running clear and shooting over the advancing Marcos for his second goal of the tournament. ***AP***

**RIVALDO** (center) is hugged by teammates Roberto Carlos (left) and Edmilson (top) after scoring the equalizer against England. Brazil prevailed, 2-1, to advance to the semifinals.

REUTERS

**ENGLAND** captain David Beckham (left) is consoled by Brazilian superstar Ronaldo after their team's classic quarterfinal encounter.

## English mourn World Cup loss

LONDON— Cheers turned to tears across England on Friday as an estimated 30 million people watched their beloved team take an early lead but lose 2-1 in their World Cup quarterfinal against Brazil.

More than five million fans made early morning visits to about 25,000 pubs to watch the game from Shizuoka, Japan, which kicked off at 7:30 a.m. in England.

At the Larrick Pub in Putney in southwest London, men wept at TV pictures of England captain David Beckham consoling distraught goalkeeper David Seaman. The winning goal early in the second half came when Ronaldinho's free kick arced over Seaman's head.

"I'm gutted," fan Chris Melotte said. "To do so well and then stumble like we did hurts so much. But we will win it in 2006."

England's only World Cup title came in 1966, when it was the tournament host.

Steve Stacey, who drank three pints of lager over breakfast during the game, was devastated when the final whistle blew. ***AP***

## Brazilians rejoice

RIO DE JANEIRO—In the cool of a winter's night Brazilians jumped for joy on Copacabana beach on Friday as Brazil swept into the semifinal of the World Cup with a 2-1 victory over England in Japan.

"It was Brazil's best game so far, we can now go on and win the cup," said jubilant Robson Oliveira, a 31-year-old trader.

The fans, many of them wearing yellow Brazilian shirts, hugged each other and unfurled a huge flag in this fun-loving, exotic city.

Fireworks exploded in all directions and pennant-festooned cars honked their horns as they swept along the famous Copacabana seafront of hotels, bars and nightclubs. ***Reuters***

## *Germany triumphs*

ULSAN, South Korea —Germany did just enough to beat the United States 1-0 on Friday and advance to the World Cup semifinals, but had goalkeeper Oliver Kahn to thank for a string of first half saves.

Michael Ballack scored a 39th minute header as three-time champion Germany made it to the last four for the 10th time in its history.

Ballack, rising high between U.S. defenders Tony Sanneh and Gregg Berhalter, headed home a right-wing free kick from Christian Ziege.

Germany will play the winner of Saturday's quarterfinal between South Korea and Spain. ***AP***

## Webb's 64 shows way

PITTSFORD, New York—Karrie Webb, winless on the LPGA Tour this year, took advantage of soft playing conditions and shot an 8-under-par 64 on Thursday to take the first-round lead at the Rochester International.

Webb, who won here three years ago, blistered the narrow Locust Hill Country Club course with nine birdies in her lowest round in nine tournaments this year and led Meg Mallon by three strokes.

Kristal Parker-Manzo was tied for third at 68 with Joanne Morley, while Gloria Park and Mi Hyun Kim were at 69. ***AP***

### Quigley, Tanaka ahead

CROMWELL, Connecticut —Brett Quigley and Hidemichi Tanaka had 6-under-par 64s to top the crowded leaderboard after the first round of the Greater Hartford Open.

Quigley birdied four of the first six holes, while Tanaka birdied four of the last six in taking advantage of perfect conditions Thursday at the TPC at River Highlands. ***AP***

## Gloria appointing 5 men to SEAG board

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

PRESIDENT Arroyo is set to handpick five people to the 11-man organizing committee of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games which will be held in the country, according to Philippine Olympic Committee secretary general Romy Ribaño yesterday.

The persons to be appointed by the President could either come from the government or the private sector, added Ribaño. They will then work hand in hand with officials of the Philippine Sports Commission and the POC who will be making up the other six slots in the committee.

POC president Celso Dayrit earlier said he is inclined to tap the people behind the staging of the 1991 SEAG for the 2005 Games considering their experience in handling a big sporting event like the SEAG.

The committee's first task is to determine where the Games will be held, selecting among interested cities like Manila, Iloilo-Bacolod, Pampanga, Cebu City, Naga City, Baguio City and Gen. Santos City.

"Once the committee members are named, we can begin the deliberations for the possible venue of the Games," said Ribaño, who admitted that choosing among the cities bidding for hosting is a long, arduous process.

Still, the POC official revealed that there are proposals to scatter the events in two or three cities all over the country unlike in 1981 and 1991 when the SEAG was held only in Metro Manila with the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex as the main hub.

## Davao football today

THE FIRST adidas lightning football competitions return to Mindanao today with the Davao eliminations at the Davao PTA field.

Vic Sai, president of the Davao Football Association, said nine teams per division will be seeing action in the month-long tournament sponsored by adidas Philippines in cooperation with Fuji films, Dream Broadcasting, 89.9 DWM and McDonald's and supported by Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Zed, HSBC, Sony records and 99.5 RT.

Adidas Philippines sports marketing assistant manager Goody Custodio, marketing services assistant manager Odette Velarde and Philippine Football Federation president Rene Adad are expected to grace the inaugural rites preceding the opening games.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Northern Samar sportsfest

CATARMAN, Northern Samar—The Northern Samar provincial government headed by Gov. Raul Daza staged a week-long sports tournament recently as part of the celebration of the 37th founding anniversary of the province. Daza, who is chair of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines and honorary chair of the Dancesport Council of the Philippines, urged the participating teams and athletes from the 24 municipalities during the opening ceremony on June 13 to one their talents for national and international competitions and to develop the true spirit of sportsmanship. The tournament included basketball, volleyball for men and women, boxing, dancesport, chess, little league baseball, marathon and lawn tennis for children and adults. Lawyer Eduardo de la Cruz, provincial sports consultant, was the overall coordinator. During the Northern Samar beauty pageant which was also a part of the founding anniversary celebration, dancesport latin-american champions Bong Marquez and Belinda Adora as well as standard champions Anne and Jerswin Poloyapoy performed special numbers.

### Cage great Badion passes away

TWO-TIME basketball Olympian Charlie Badion died on Thursday after a heart attack. Badion, originator of the "bicycle drive" was a member of the Philippine team which placed seventh in the 1956 Montreal Olympics. He was also a member of the 11th placed RP team to the 1960 Rome Olympics. In the same year, Badion spearheaded the Filipinos' title conquest in the First Asian Confederation Basketball Championship in Manila, where he was adjudged the Most Valuable Player. In 1958, Badion was also with the Philippine team which retained the ABC title in Tokyo. Badion, who was to turn 67 on Aug. 16, is survived by wife Lolita (Nee Espiritu) and children Dr. Harry, Marivic and engineer Carlos Darren. His body lies at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Meanwhile, many time national baseball team member Edilberto Gamilla died on Saturday in his residence in Vindeor, Canada. Gamilla was with the Philippine team which took third place in the 1966 World Amateur Baseball Championship in Honolulu, Hawaii.

### Navarro burial slated Tuesday

THE REMAINS of the late Rudy C. Navarro will be laid to rest on Tuesday, June 25, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina. A Mass will be held at 8 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque before Navarro's body is brought to his resting place. Navarro, a veteran newsman for more than 40 years, died of cardiac arrest last Tuesday. He was 63. Before his death, Navarro was sports editor of Tempo, his home for 20 years. In lieu of flowers, Navarro's family is requesting prayers.

## SPORTS ON TV

**Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**

**MOTOR SPORTS:** SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

2002 F1 Qualifying - European Grand Prix Qualifying at 6:15 p.m. on Star Sports

**BASKETBALL:** NBA Inside Stuff at 11 a.m. (r – 5:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

The Basketball Show at 12 noon on RPN 9

**TENNIS:** Wimbledon Official Film 2000 at 8 a.m. (r), 2001 at 12 noon on Star Sports

ATP Stella Artois Championships 2002 Semifinal #2 at 1 p.m. on Star Sports

**GOLF:** LPGA Kellogg-Keebler Classic, Second Round at 9 a.m. on Star Sports

PGA Canon Greater Hartford Open, Second Round at midnight on Star Sports

**SOCCER:** World Cup Today at 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. (r) and 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Futbol Mundial at 5 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

## RACING TIPS

**At San Lazaro By Mr. 999**

Race 1—1. Speed Rich 2. Shining Pyramid 3. Santimari 4. Diamond Lass

Race 2—1. Brenda Starr 2. Bull Strike 3. Doctor Steve

Race 3—1. Silver Flyer 2. Roman Music 3. Imperial Act 4. Rackstar 5. Deputy Parade

Race 4—1. Terribly One 2. Queen Storm 3. Sharp Bullet

Race 5—1. Thundering Dunk 2. Adam's Call 3. Roppongi 4. Power Corrupts 5. Pro Bono 6. Sham Sham

Race 6—1. Duces Tecum 2. Proud Spirit 3. Real Charm

Race 7—1. Free Entrance 2. Give and Take 3. Respect the Ace

Race 8—1. Exceptional Charm 2. War general 3. Patago 4. Day and Night

Race 9—1. Tayp Ko Yan 2. Lady Queen 3. Precious Time 4. Meal Ticket 5. Hong Kong Girl

Race 10—1. Hercules 2. Bright Task 3. Atenean 4. Bemedalled Ruler 5. Winning Prize

Race 11—1. Ready Aim Fire 2. Flirt 3. Good Quality

Race 12—1. Take Chances 2. Jhelen 3. Kathy Rose 4. Imus Emperor 5. Steel Wheel

Race 13—1. Ganda 2. Dedicated 3. Sky Wind 4. Aringkingking 5. Irish Diplomat 6. Best Lover/ Pingas

## *F1 racing gets major boost*

THE FEDERATION Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) World Championship was recently boosted anew by renowned watch maker Tag Heuer.

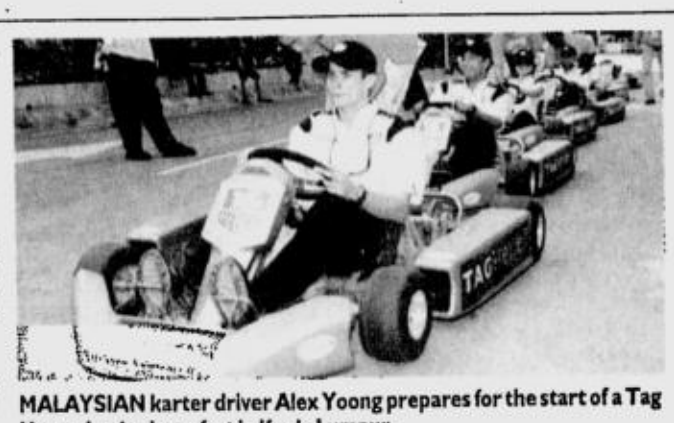
With the renewed tieup, interest in the sport of auto racing gained gained higher proportion worldwide.

The watch-making firm has been riding high on the countless victories of its star-studded Team McLaren whose drivers include superstars Alain Prost, Ayrton Senna, Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard. The team's newest member is Kimi Raikkonen.

Tag Heuer is unveiling its latest piece of personal hardware in the coming F1 Grand Prix meets, that is the Kirium Formula One Chronograph, a sophisticated multi-digital chronograph constructed from Grade 5 titanium and carbon fiber.

Its fashionable design displays time in both digital and analog mode, and allows the display to be switched off so it appears as a sapphire crystal set on a black dial.

With Tag Heuer's support, F1 racing is expected to be on top of the sporting world again.



**MALAYSIAN** karter driver Alex Yoong prepares for the start of a Tag Heuer-backed racefest in Kuala Lumpur.

# NBA draft in New York

NBA NOTES

*Henry Liao*

FOR the second year in a row, New York is the site of the NBA draft, which will be conducted on June 27 (manila time) at the Theater at Madison Square Garden.

The order of selection in the first round of the two-round grab-bag this year is as follows: 1-Houston, 2-Chicago, 3-Golden State, 4-Memphis, 5-Denver, 6-Cleveland, 7-New York, 8-LA Clippers (from Atlanta), 9-Phoenix, 10-Miami, 11-Washington, 12-LA Clippers, 13-Milwaukee, 14-Indiana, 15-Houston (from Toronto), 16-Philadelphia, 17-New Orleans, 18-Orlando, 19-Utah, 20-Toronto (from Seattle via New York), 21-Portland, 22-Phoenix, 23-Detroit, 24-New Jersey, 25-Denver (from Dallas), 26-San Antonio, 27-LA Lakers and 23-Sacramento.

Minnesota forfeited its first round draft choice as part of the NBA penalty for the illegal signing of forward Joe Smith in 1999. Along with the Timberwolves, Atlanta, Seattle, Boston and Dallas do not have No. 1 draft picks as a result of previous trade transactions.

Meanwhile, Houston, Denver, Phoenix and the LA Clippers have a pair of first-rounders.

The Rockets are expected to take Yao Ming with the top selection overall, making the 7-5, 21-year-old Chinese phenom the first non-US-born player without American college-ball experience to be chosen No. 1. Yao is China's version of LA Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal, leading his local club, the Shanghai Sharks, to a 3-1 decision over the 6-year titlist Bayi Rockets (Wang Zhizhi's team before he hooked up with the Dallas Mavericks in April 2001) in the best-of-five 2002 finals of the Chinese Basketball Association with mind-boggling averages of 41.3 points, 21.0 rebounds and 4.3 blocked shots an outing.

There's a possibility that Houston will draft Yao then ship his rights in exchange for a prominent veteran player and a lower-ranked No. 1 draft choice.

Golden State, which will select third, and the Clippers, who will choose eighth, are interested in Yao. There is a huge Chinese community in the Bay Area and a move to the Warriors could make the transition to the NBA easier for the two-time CBA MVP.

Assuming the Rockets keep Yao, Chicago, which has the second pick overall, will go for 6-2 Duke point guard Jay Williams, the consensus 2002 College Player of the Year and a two-time first-team All-American.

PBA CUP

# Realtors zap Hotdogs

By June Navarro

**GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)**
3:45 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Shell
5:45 p.m.—Talk N Text vs FedEx

ANTIPOLO CITY—Sta. Lucia Realty reversed its misfortunes and turned back Purefoods, 90-75, last night during the start of their PBA Commissioner's Cup campaign at the Ynares Center here.

Willie Farley stood out in the final quarter, spearheading a 27-4 scoring binge that totally altered the fate of the Realtors.

Riding on Farley's 31-point performance, the Realtors now joined Talk N Text, Batang Red Bull, Coca-Cola and Alaska with 1-0 records.

Stephen Howard, the other half of the Realtors' formidable pair of reinforcements, chipped in 16 points while Paolo Mendoza, Marlou Aquino and Noynoy Falcasantos also finished with double figures to lead Sta. Lucia's cause.

"It was unexpected. We're down three-fourths of the way but we were able to come up with the needed baskets in the end. We never gave up," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black.

Barangay Ginebra leaned on Silas Mills and Ben Davis to defeat Selecta-RP Team, 85-81, in the other game.

**Scores:**

**STA. LUCIA 90**—Farley 31, Howard 16, Medoza 14, Falcasantos 12, Aquino 12, Ejercito 3, Francisco 2, Adriano 0, Del Rosario 0, Rodriguez 0.

**PUREFOODS 75**—Muoneke 28, Raymundo 13, Yap 12, Price 6, Evangelista 6, Magsanoc 5, Patrimonio 3, Mendiola 2, Cantonjos 0, Balingit 0.

Quarters: 23-21, 37-42, 61-68, 90-75.

# Eagles beat Gems anew

**GAMES TODAY (Bren Guiao Convention Center, San Fernando)**
3 p.m.—Pangasinan vs Olongapo
6 p.m.—Batangas vs Pampanga

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Professional Davao met a stiffer challenge, but still emerged the victor over Cebuana Lhuillier, 79-75, in the MBA National Conference at the Mindanao Polytechnic State College Gym here.

The Eagles won their first meeting comfortably, 76-65, on Sunday, but found the Gems tougher customers before raising their record to 3-0 and keeping the lead in the Southern Conference yesterday. Again, it was their superiority off the boards, 60-42, that enabled the Eagles to pull through and hand the Gems their second defetat in three games.

It was Peter June Simon's turn to shine for the Eagles as he wound up with 16 points, three rebounds and one assist and was chosen as the game's best player.

Cid White typified the Eagles domination inside the shaded lane as he collared 13 rebounds. Rookies Billy Mamaril and Jon Dan Salvador grabbed nine rebounds each.

Meanwhile, Cebuana Lhuillier coach Francis Rodriguez has been appointed as head coach of the MBA All-Star competing in the 2002 Jones Cup in Taiwan.

Rodriguez's appointment was confirmed by MBA director for basketball operations Butch Maniego during the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines Forum at the Kamayan in Padre Faura. LBC Batangas coach Nash Racela and Lawrence Chongson of Osaka Pangasinan were named assistant coaches.

*Roy Luarca*

**Scores:**

**DAVAO 79**—Marata 20, Simon 16, White 11, Montalbo 9, Salvador 7, Mamaril 5, Sasuman 4, Yap 3, Manigo 0, Menor 0.

**CEBU 75**—Tangkay 15, Padilla 11, Echavez 9, De Jesus 7, Lura 8, Pingris 6, De Guzman 6, Rodriguez 5, Dacia 5, Taguines 2, Gamboa 1, Quilban 0.

Quarters: 28-18, 41-47, 64-64, 79-75.

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# Castillo pads hitting streak

MIAMI—Luis Castillo needed only one at-bat Thursday to extend his hitting streak to 34 games, breaking Rogers Hornsby's record for a second baseman and tying Dom DiMaggio and three other players.

Castillo scored the first run of a 3-0 victory that helped the Florida Marlins complete a three-game sweep of the Cleveland Indians in a rain shortened game, called in the bottom of the sixth inning.

**COMPLETE RESULTS**

Chicago White Sox 6, Philadelphia 1; Houston 9, Milwaukee 3; Texas 7, Chicago Cubs 4; Colorado 14, N.Y. Yankees 11, 10 innings; San Francisco 10, Tampa Bay 2; Anaheim 3, St. Louis 2; Arizona 5, Baltimore 1; Oakland 5, Pittsburgh 3; Florida 3, Cleveland 0, 5 1-2 innings; Montreal 5, Kansas City 4, 11 innings; N.Y. Mets 3, Minnesota 2; Seattle 3, Cincinnati 2; Atlanta 3, Detroit 2; Boston 5, San Diego 0; Los Angeles 2, Toronto 1. *AP*

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Arianne Cerdeña tallied 2452 pins to rule the Masters title in the 21st PBC (Philippine Bowling Congress) Open tenpin championships at Greenlanes.

**FOUR DIGIT** (in exact order)
Luzon 4 0 7 3
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25 20 45 3 24 4

**SUERTRES** 5 9 6

# SPORTS

Brazil sends England home /A20
Sta. Lucia spanks Purefoods /A21

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

PBL FINALS

# Blu edges Ateneo, stays alive

By Dennis U. Eroa

**SMOOTH-playing Aris Dimaunahan made the winning basket as Blu Sun Power escaped with a heartstopping 46-45 victory over Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation last night, extending the PBL Chairman's Cup title series at the Makati Coliseum.**

The predominantly blue and white crowd watched in silence as Dimaunahan received a perfect drop pass from a twisting Lou Gatumbato and scored on a bankshot to remember.

Earlier, newcomer Jec Chia drove hard to give Ateneo a slim one-point lead, 45-44, 1:42 remaining. But that proved to be the Blue Eagles' last basket.

Ateneo, which is hoping to join the illustrious list of PBL champions, still leads the best-of-three series, 2-1. Game Four is set on Monday at the Makati Coliseum with neither teams enjoying the edge.

Blu's first win in the series wasn't assured till the final buzzer. Ateneo had 2.9 seconds left to cap a perfect day which saw Enrico Villanueva winning MVP honors, and teammates Celino Cruz and Richard Alvarez bagging seats in the mythical five.

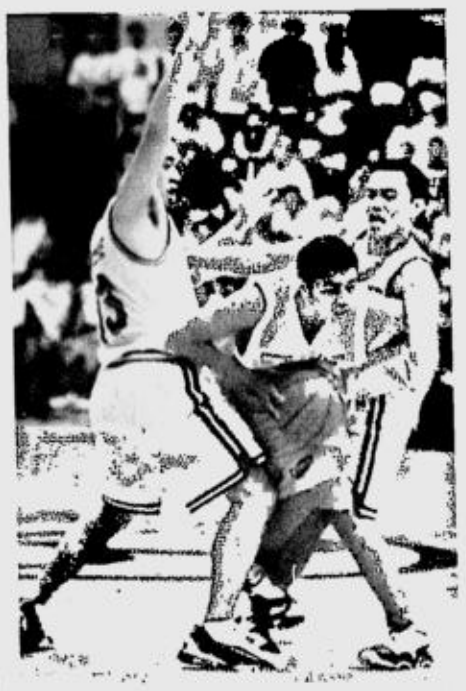
Chia's jumper in the ensuing play was short and Alvarez missed twice from pointblank but Ateneo kept ball possession, 1.5 ticks left. Cruz, who earlier missed a crucial triple in the final 40 ticks, wisely inbounded to the 6-foot-5 Villanueva, whose 8-footer rimmed out as the buzzer sounded.

Blu roared to a fast start, 17-8, but both teams, obviously feeling the pressure, exchanged duds, committed turnovers and fared poorly from the field leading to the low-scoring game.

**BLU 46**—Legaspi 13, Dimaunahan 10, Codamon 9, De la Cuesta 5, Calo 3, Mendez 3, Latoreno 3, Roldan 2, Prior 0, Gatumbato 0.

**ATENEO 45**—Villanueva 14, Fonacier 7, Aniciete 6, Cruz C 5, Alvarez 4, Domingo 4, Valdez 2, Chia 2, Gonzales 1, Quimpo 0.

Quarters: 17-9, 24-23, 37-35, 46-45.



BLU playmaker Lou Gatumbato finds himself sandwiched by Ateneo's Jeremy Aniciete (left) and Celino Cruz. Blu won, 46-45, to keep its hopes alive. ERNIE SARMIENTO

# St. Francis rips Yonsei, keeps title

ST. Francis of Assisi banked on Ranidel de Ocampo, Al Vergara and Irvin Sotto to subdue Yonsei University of Korea, 100-86, Thursday night and keep the Spring Cooking Oil-Asian University Basketball Championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Sotto and De Ocampo made their presence felt by the Koreans with 1:29 left in the first half as they started ripping the game apart in this Basketball Association of the Philippines-organized cagefest.

With the victory, the Doves' completed a five-game sweep of this tournament supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Absolute Distilled Water, Healthy Options and YKL Color Films.

Awarding the trophy to the champion team were BAP president Tiny Literal, Executive VP Christian Tan, National Basketball League Commissioner Fritz Gaston, Manila Rep. Harry Angping and PSC Commissioner William Ramirez.

Also attending the closing rites were BAP auditor Tony Fabico and PSC Commissioners Leon Montemayor and Mike Barredo.

With elder brother Fedex slotman Yancy de Ocampo watching nearby, the younger Ranidel showed the way for the Doves with 31 points. Vergara and Sotto backed him up with 24 and 17 points, respectively.

University of Santo Tomas settled for third spot at the expense of San Sebastian College, 89-70. Gellig and Espiritu banged in 12 points apiece while Baguio had nine.

# *RP boxers post 2 wins*

By Recah Trinidad

SEREMBAN, Malaysia—Team Caltex of the Philippines drove hard into the win column Thursday as light flyweight Lhyven Salazar dominated his Indian foe before bantamweight Ferdie Gamo retired a pesky Sri Lankan in Day 3 of the 21st Asian Amateur Boxing championships here.

The 26-year-old Gamo, a Navyman from Bago City, was raining hefty combinations on Wannia Rachi midway in the second round when the whistle signaled that the Filipino had already amassed a 15-point margin over the Sri Lankan who innocently protested the stoppage.

Although officials again failed to provide the exact scores Gamo was declared winner by RSC, CO (referee stopped contest, count outclassed) in the day's final bout.

Earlier, Salazar, 23, gold medalist in the Acropolis and Bosnia tournaments, scored a trouble-free points over tall and stylish Kumar Akhir.

After winning only one of three bouts on opening day, the twin wins was a big comeback for the RP team that's being bankrolled by Caltex Philippines with support from the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Revicon.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez, together with coaches George Caliwan, Pat Gaspi and Boy Velasco, however, said their fighters will have to surpass themselves to pass succeeding tests as this tournament is as tough as the Asian Games itself.

Two of three RP bouts scheduled yesterday were against Thai fighters.

Featherweight Roel Laguna was paired against Khursed Sutithisak, welterweight Florencio Ferrer against Manus Boonjamong.

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■ NBI agent cleared in kidnap /A24
■ On Target: Wrong charge vs Larry Mendoza /A24

# METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Fake medicines seized in Parañaque /A24
■ 'No compromise on Mehan' /A26

# Ativan Gang boss captured

SUSPECT Fabricante, presented to Makati Mayor Binay, admits abduction of the Korean diplomat but says the foreigner's death "just happened."

By Alcuin Papa

**"I DIDN'T want to kill him. It just happened. To the family, I want to say I'm very sorry."**

**Rodrigo Fabricante alias Robert Sambili yesterday said this to reporters after he was arrested as the suspected leader of the Ativan Gang that abducted South Korean diplomat Chung Young-ho on June 6.**

Fabricante, 50, of Barangay Patimbao, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, was captured by a team led by Supt. Jose Ramon Salido, chief of the Makati City Criminal Investigation Division and head of Task Force Ativan.

Presented in a news conference in the office of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, Fabricante readily admitted to abducting and robbing Chung. But he said Chung's death was unintentional.

Chung, who was found dead on June 7 in Marikina City, seemed to be suffering from asthma, said Fabricante, who was caught in Laguna. This could have caused the foreigner's death while he was drugged with Ativan, he added.

Members of the Ativan Gang approach foreigners and introduce themselves as bank executives. When they earn the trust of their victims, they offer them juice drinks laced with a potent tranquilizer, either Ativan (generic name Lorezopan) or Dormicon. When the victims lose consciousness, the gang members take their cash and other valuables.

Fabricante said that in Chung's case, they used five tablets of Ativan to knock out the Korean diplomat.

Under interrogation, Fabricante said he was working as a tourist guide when a Willy Crudo recruited him into the Ativan group in 1992. However, he was not given his share of the gang's loot and he eventually formed a breakaway group together with another gang member, Arturo Herrera.

Fabricante said that he and Herrera preyed on tourists and foreigners in Makati, Manila and shopping malls like the SM Megamall. He said he and Herrera have victimized about 40 foreigners.

They are also suspected of having victimized about five foreigners in the Makati area this month alone.

ATIVAN GANG/ A26

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# We were not told of suspect's arrest, says Baron's dad

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FATHER of Baron Cervantes yesterday said police did not inform his family that Rodolfo "Bullet" Patiño, one of the eight suspects in his son's New Year's Eve murder, had been arrested and had since escaped.

Rac Cervantes, father of Baron, said his family and lawyers only learned of Patiño's arrest when Patiño and two other suspected kidnappers escaped on Wednesday from the detention room at the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) headquarters in Camp Crame.

"We are amazed why (police) never told us that Patiño had already been arrested," the father said. "All the while we thought he was still at large. Now he has escaped."

Self-confessed gunman Joseph Mostrales had tagged Patiño as part of the seven-man team that Supt. Rafael Cardeño supposedly ordered to liquidate Cervantes, the self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officer's Union, last Dec. 31.

WE WERE NOT/ A26

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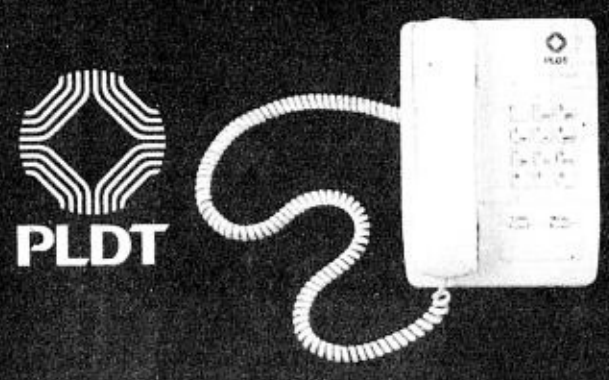

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# Wrong charge vs Larry Mendoza

ON TARGET

*Ramon Tulfo*

THE GUY that Leandro "Larry" Mendoza played golf with in Cebu City last November, Wellington Lim, has neither been convicted nor charged with any crime.

So, what's wrong if Mendoza played golf with Lim when he was still the Philippine National Police chief? Is it wrong to play golf, or any other game for that matter, with an innocent man?

It would have been an entirely different story if the court had found Lim and his brother Peter guilty of drug trafficking, of which they are being accused. But there is no proof that the brothers are engaged in drug trafficking. All the reports about them are hearsay.

***

**Yes, Lim was investigated by the House committee on dangerous drugs.**

**But the committee has not recommended any charges against him.**

**Most congressional investigations, made supposedly "in aid of legislation," are just harassment of individual citizens by some members of Congress. I'm a witness to this kind of legislative harassment because a friend of mine is a victim.**

**There ought to be a law against congressmen initiating investigations against private citizens who are their political or personal enemies. But that's another story.**

***

Visayas Ombudsman Director Virginia Santiago was grandstanding when she recommended the filing of charges against Mendoza et al. for playing golf with Wellington Lim.

In the first place, why did Santiago come out with the charges only after Mendoza was designated secretary of transportation and communications?

Secondly, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that a person is considered innocent of any charges against him until after he is convicted in court.

And since Lim is innocent, why shouldn't the PNP chief not play golf with him, Lim being a prominent businessman in Cebu City?

***

**I gathered from some objective observers in Cebu City that the unproven accusation against Lim stemmed from his incurring the ire of Rep. Antonio Cuenco.**

**Lim, the observers said, got Cuenco's goat when he did not support the congressman's rival in the last election.**

**So, there you are!**

***

In a somewhat related issue, the joint Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs, national defense and security, and blue ribbon have cleared businessman Kim Wong of accusations that he is a drug lord.

Wong had been linked to drug trafficking by Ador Mawanay, one of the government witnesses against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. The senator allegedly engaged in drug trafficking, kidnapping and money laundering when he was the national police chief. Wong is Lacson's friend.

Wong is planning to sue his accusers, according to his lawyer, Frank I. Chavez.

By the way, how come news reports did not mention Wong's exoneration by the Senate?

***

**The more the military tries to explain how Martin Burnham and Edibora Yap died in the clash between the Army Rangers and the Abu Sayyaf, the more it buries itself in the mud.**

***Mas lalo lang silang nababaon.*** **There's no use trying to undo what has been done.**

**I've talked to some battle-hardened military officers about the botched attempt to rescue Martin and Yap, which saved Gracia Burnham. All of these battle experts said the Army Rangers had the utmost advantage, but they expressed surprise why most of the Abu Sayyaf bandits got away.**

**The Rangers were on high ground, enabling them to see the exact location of the bandits and their captives. In short, they had all the bandits within their gun sights or scopes. More importantly, the bandits were caught by surprise. In the military, surprise is the biggest element that wins battles.**

***

How come, my battle expert friends ask, the government troops were not able to make full use of the advantages of surprise and of being on the high ground and looking down on the enemy?

Because those Rangers were eager beavers, their fingers were already itchy. In short, they lacked discipline and training.

Had they been accompanied by US military advisers, the battle experts said, the outcome of that chance encounter would have been different.

Well, no use crying over spilt milk.

***

Who's this official of the Air Transportation Office (ATO) who is withholding the renewal of the registration of two aircraft of an airline because his request to the company was not accommodated?

His request? That the airline insure the two aircraft with the insurance company where his relative is an agent.

But the airline could not afford the very high premium offered by the insurance company. The airline insured the aircraft with another insurance company.

***

**The ATO official got mad when he learned about the rebuff.**

**Now, the airline is taking the consequences of his wrath. No insurance, no registration renewal for the two aircraft.**

**Then-Transportation Secretary Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez reportedly talked with this ATO official after the airline complained to him. But up to now, the official has not given the two aircraft the "clean bill."**

**Since when has the ATO become an insurance agent?**

# NBI agent cleared in kidnap

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco cleared NBI agent Alex T. Advento of involvement in the kidnapping of food company heiress Charmaine Dayco Ong.

Wycoco said Advento, whose NBI identification card was found in one of the cars that the kidnappers had used, passed a lie detector test in which he was asked if he was involved in Ong's kidnapping.

Wycoco said Advento is now helping the bureau track down the kidnappers.

"He is very cooperative," Wycoco said. "He took a lie detector test and was asked about (his alleged involvement in) Ong's kidnapping and passed (the test)."

He added that the initial results of the bureau's investigation showed that "there was no indication that Advento was involved."

Accompanied by his lawyer Carlomagno R. Uminga, Advento on Wednesday was presented to the media at the NBI. He voluntarily went to the NBI on Tuesday night to clear his name.

NBI-Special Task Force chief Marianito Panganiban and NBI-Anti-Organized Crime Division head agent Ferdinand F. Lavin investigated Advento.

Advento apparently knew the owner of the red Nissan Sentra (TPE-218) that Ong's kidnappers left on Narra Street at Clarkview subdivision in Barangay Malabanias, Angeles City. Advento's ID was found in the car.

Ong was kidnapped Tuesday night and held captive at 29 California St. at Villasol Subdivision in Barangay Anonas, also in Angeles City. But she allegedly escaped with the help of one of the kidnappers.

Advento's ID card was issued in 1996 during the time of former NBI Director Mariano Mison.

Advento's lawyer Uminga said the NBI agent did not know where his 1996 ID was.

When he was presented to media and asked if he had met Ong, Advento answered, "never."

He said that on June 13, the day Ong was kidnapped, he was in the NBI, "following up some papers."

"I don't even own a car," he said.

A CIDG report said the license plate of the Nissan Sentra was originally issued to a 1992 model Toyota Corolla four-door sedan registered to a certain Trinidad Velayo of San Pedro, Laguna.

The PNP Region III-Traffic Management Group reported that the Sentra was stolen and that its original plate number was TRD-469.

The car was allegedly taken forcibly from its owner Aurora Sagum, of Mandaluyong City.

But Advento apparently also had some run-ins with the PNP-TMG last year. He was recently transferred to the NBI field office in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

An NBI source said the PNP-TMG caught Advento driving a stolen Mitsubishi Adventure last year. But his superiors interceded on his behalf, the source added.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

**PIRATE'S LOOT**

**Supt. Ramon de Jesus, commander of the Western Police District Station 9, and his men dump fake video cassette discs and digital video discs in a raid on several stalls at the Harrison Plaza shopping mall in Manila. They confiscated more than 30,000 pirated discs.**

# Fake garments seized in stores

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

RETAIL giant Shoemart and two other stores are facing charges of violating the intellectual property law after National Bureau of Investigation agents confiscated more than P1 million worth of fake Ambercrombie and Fitch garments from their shops.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the business establishments as Armstrong Import and Export Trading Inc., Elson's Enterprises Inc. and the three SM malls in Quezon City, Makati and Mandaluyong.

Wycoco said in a statement that his men confiscated P1,131,600 worth of fake Ambercrombie and Fitch apparel from these stores during separate raids early this week.

He said the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division under Rafael Z. Ragos began investigating the business establishments after getting a complaint from Pinkerton Consulting Services.

NBI-IPRD agents conducted test buys and surveillance operations in the stores and confirmed that they were selling fake Ambercrombie and Fitch garments.

The NBI obtained search warrants from Judge Antonio M. Eugenio Jr. of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 24.

NBI agents raided the stores early this week.

They confiscated 605 fake Ambercrombie and Fitch garments from SM Makati; 1,720 from an SM mall in Quezon City; 449 in SM Megamall; 120 from the Armstrong store at Kawilihan Village in Pasig City, and Elson's store in Barrio Ugong, also in Pasig.

The NBI said SM officials cooperated during the raids and will confront their suppliers.

The bureau statement said the owners of these stores would be charged with violating the Intellectual Property Rights Law.

# Policemen foil takeover attempt in Pangarap

**By Tina Santos**

TENSION again gripped residents of Pangarap Village in Caloocan City after at least 20 armed security guards of businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III stormed the area on Thursday.

Security guards of the Meshem Security Agency led by Jaime Silay and the agency's vice president for operations Mari Raymundo trooped to Gate I of Pangarap Village at 5:20 p.m. on Thursday, according to sources from the Caloocan City Police Sub-station 5.

Olivia Cuevas, a resident of the Pangarap Village, said the guards attempted to take over Gate 1 where they were holding a prayer vigil.

She added that members of the Task Force Pangarap Village immediately intervened to avoid any bloody encounter between the armed men and the residents, who vowed to remain in Gate 1.

During the negotiations, an explosion was heard at the Araneta compound where the security guards were staying. But residents believed that the one responsible for the explosion also came from the Araneta camp.

Nobody was reported hurt in the incident.

The security guards also allegedly detained temporarily an unidentified resident of Ciudad Real in San Jose Del Monte City in Bulacan, who happened to be near the place after his car broke down.

The man was reportedly released only after truckloads of policemen arrived and intervened. The security guards were compelled to leave and go back to their compound while firing their 12-gauge shotgun and .9 mm pistol to the ground.

Cuevas said that the security guards were apparently alarmed when they learned that the residents were freely bringing inside the village construction materials for repairing their houses.

The 156-hectare Pangarap Village has been the subject of a long-standing dispute between the Aranetas and the residents.

Caloocan City District 1 Rep. Enrico Echiverri earlier urged the government to file a reversion case against Araneta in a bid to end the controversy.

# Fake medicines seized in Parañaque

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents recently confiscated P130,000 worth of fake drugs, including Viagra, in a raid on a firm selling carpets in Parañaque City.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men raided Sahar International Trading in BF Homes, Parañaque and charged its owner, Muhammad Ateeque, and his general manager Khalid Mehmood.

Sahar's main line of business was supposedly selling carpets, Wycoco said.

Confiscated were Viagra, a drug for erectile dysfunction; Accupril for hypertension; Lipitor for hyperlipidemia; Dilantin, for convulsion; Norvasc, manufactured by Pfizer for hypertension; Zinacef, an antibiotic; Betnovate cream; and Ventolin for asthma, manufactured by GlaxoSmithkline; Bactrim for infections; Bezalip for blood lipids; and Tilcotil for arthritis, manufactured by Roche.

The bureau began watching Sahar Trading last year after the lawyers of pharmaceutical giants Roche, Glaxosmithkline and Pfizer complained that Sahar was illegally selling the unregistered imported drugs.

Agents from the NBI-Intellectual Property Rights Division under Rafael Z. Ragos confirmed Sahar's illegal activities.

On June 9, an undercover agent tried to buy imported medicine from the Sahar. Khalid allegedly invited the agent inside the office and then showed him the drugs. The other NBI agents swooped down on Khalid and invited him to the NBI headquarters in Ermita, Manila.

Malik and Ateeque have been charged with violating Republic Act No. 3720 or the Food, Drugs and Cosmetic Act, and RA 8203 or the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs.

RA 8023 prohibits the importation, distribution, sale and possession of unregistered imported drugs.

The Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) said private companies, the Department of Health, the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD), and police are working to eradicate the sale of fake medicines.

Consumers are advised to buy medicines from reputable drugstores and to report suspicious outlets and dealers of fake medicines to BFAD at tel. nos. 807-8275 or 807-0725. ***With Philip C. Tubeza***

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS | 1 A WALK TO REMEMBER | 1 MONSTER'S BALL | SCOOBY DOO 10:00, 1:00, 3:00 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 | 1 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| 2 A WALK TO REMEMBER | 2 SUM OF ALL FEARS | 2 SUM OF ALL FEARS | 2 SUM OF ALL FEARS 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25, 12:00 | 2 SCOOBY DOO |
| 3 MAGKAPATID | 3 SUM OF ALL FEARS 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00 | 3 SCOOBY DOO | MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 | 3 SCOOBY DOO |
| 4 SCOOBY DOO | 4 MONSTER'S BALL | MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 22, 28 & 29 | 4 MONSTER'S BALL 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 | 4 A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| | 5 SCOOBY DOO | | 5 A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:00,2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 | 5 MONSTER'S BALL |
| | 6 SCOOBY DOO | | | |
| | 7 MAGKAPATID | | | |

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2 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO
3 (DTS) SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 GOLD (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
5 GOLD (DOLBY) A WALK TO REMEMBER
6 GOLD (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 MONSTER BALL
9 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10 MAGKAPATID

**Pearl Plaza Cinemas**
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 DISKARTE
2 MAMASAN
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

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1 DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID

**starmall Movies**
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 MONSTER BALL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MAMASAN

**METROPOLIS star**
tel 850.4285
1 DISKARTE
2 MAMASAN
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 SUM OF ALL FEARS
5 MAGKAPATID
6 SCOOBY DOO
7
8

**PREMIERE CINEMA** THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13
1 SCOOBY DOO

**Center Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MAGKAPATID
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3

**Spring**
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 MAGKAPATID
A

**Sunshine**
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 MAGKAPATID
2 DISKARTE
3
4

### GOTESCO CINEMA

**Gotesco City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) DISKARTE
2
3
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 MAMASAN
6 MAGKAPAID
7 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
8 (SDDS) MONSTER BALL
9 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS

**Gotesco Caloocan**
tel 362.3508
2 DISKARTE

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO
5 MAMASAN
6 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
8 SUPER B
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

**Gotesco Commonwealth**
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 (SDDS) DISKARTE
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 (DOLBY) I THINK I'M IN LOVE
8

**Gotesco Ortigas**
tel 656.6795
1 MAGKAPATID
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 (DTS) I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 SUM OF ALL FEARS
5 (SDDS)

**Universal**
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 MAGKAPATID

**Sampaguita**
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 DISKARTE

**Dilson**
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson Lords Jennet
MAMASAN
I THINK I'M IN LOVE

**Mandaluyong**
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS

**Prima**
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

**Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto**
**SUPER CINERAMA**
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) DISKARTE SCOOBY DOO
2
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SUM OF ALL FEARS
5

**New Divisoria Mall**
**DIVISORIA CINEMA**
tel 244.4619
1
2
3
4
5
6

**FRC Cinema**
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
KILABOT AT KEMBOT
1
2

**Berma**
tel 879.2029
1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID

**CitiMall**
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

### CINEMA 2000

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 ; 534.2198
1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 (DTS)

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DISKARTE
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
3 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MAGKAPATID

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.2146
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 (DOLBY) SCOOBY DOO
3 (DTS) A WALK TO REMEMBER
4

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 DISKARTE
2 SUPER B
3 MAGKAPATID
4

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 DISKARTE
3 (DOLBY) MAGKAPATID
4 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 852.3276
1 (SDDS) DISKARTE
2 SHIRLEY
3 MAMASAN
4 (DTS) MAGKAPATID

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 DISKARTE
5 SUPER B

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 MAGKAPATID
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS

**Olivarez Los Baños**
tel (049) 249-2558
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 SCOOBY DOO

**Olivarez Tagaytay**
tel (046) 413.0311
1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 BUKANG BIBIG
3

**Morales Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

**Cabuyao**
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO

**Fourstep**
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 CLOSED

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SUPER B
2 MAGKAPATID
3 DISKARTE

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SUPER B
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 DISKARTE

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY DS) SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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CHRIS ROCK
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"LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT"
ANGELINA JOLIE
EDWARD BURNS
R-TIME: 1:43 RATING: PG-13
Date: June 24 & 25, 2002
THEATERS:
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6 MAGKAPATID
7 DISKARTE
8 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

### SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 MAGKAPATID
2 MONSTER'S BALL
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAMASAN
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 RESIDENT EVIL
9 DISKARTE
10 SUPER B

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 MONSTER'S BALL
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 SCOOBY DOO
9 DISKARTE
10 SUPER B
11 MAMASAN
12 MAGKAPATID

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 SCOOBY DOO
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MONSTER'S BALL
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 DISKARTE
8 MAMASAN
9 MAGKAPATID
10 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
11 MAGKAPATID
12 SUPER B

### SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 DRAGONFLY
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 SUM OF ALL FEARS
5 MONSTER'S BALL
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
8 SUPER B
9 MAGKAPATID
10 SCOOBY DOO
11 DISKARTE
12 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285452

1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 DISKARTE
4 MAGKAPATID
5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
6 MONSTER'S BALL
7 SCOOBY DOO
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

### SM SOUTHMALL
8969898

1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 DISKARTE
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 MONSTER'S BALL
5 SUPER B
6 MAMASAN
7 MAGKAPATID
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10 SCOOBY DOO

### SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 PANIC ROOM
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 DRAGONFLY
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 MAMASAN
7 MAGKAPATID
8 SCOOBY DOO

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 CASS & CARRY
2 CLOSED
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 CLOSED
8 LIGAYA PANTASYA ...

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 DISKARTE
6 MAGKAPATID

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 DISKARTE

### SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8920804

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 DISKARTE

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976096

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 JIHAD WARRIOR
4 CASS & CARRY
5 DRAGONFLY
6 SCOOBY DOO

### SM BICUTAN

1
2 SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3
4

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2 SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3
4

## THE PODIUM
1a ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO

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3 MONSTER BALL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
8 MAGKAPATID
9 RESIDENT EVIL
10 DISKARTE

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 DISKARTE
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MAGKAPATID
6 MONSTER BALL
7 SCOOBY DOO

### Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1 DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MONSTER BALL
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 MAGKAPATID

### Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 SUPER B
5 MAGKAPATID
6 MONSTER BALL
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 DISKARTE

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 MONSTER BALL
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 DISKARTE
6 MAGKAPATID

### Bacolod
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1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5 JIHAD WARRIOR
6 RESIDENT EVIL

### Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 PANIC ROOM
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 CASS & CARY
6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

### Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

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2 DISKARTE
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS

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# Ombudsman files charges vs Cavite school official

THE Fact-Finding and Intelligence Bureau (FFIB) of the Office of the Ombudsman has filed criminal and administrative charges against Cavite schools superintendent Dr. Leonora B. Ignacio for her failure to disclose her properties as a government official, gross dishonesty and conduct unbecoming of a public official.

According to a statement from the Office of Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, documents obtained from the Ombudsman said the charges against Ignacio had stemmed from the FFIB's investigation of earlier complaints of graft and corruption against then-Gov. Bong Revilla Jr. and his elder brother Marlon.

The FFIB cleared the Revillas but gathered enough documents and information to recommend the filing of charges against Ignacio, who stood as one of the two witnesses in the cases against the Revilla brothers, the statement said.

On May 31, 2002, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Jesus F. Guerrero ordered Ignacio to answer the FFIB's criminal and administrative complaints against her.

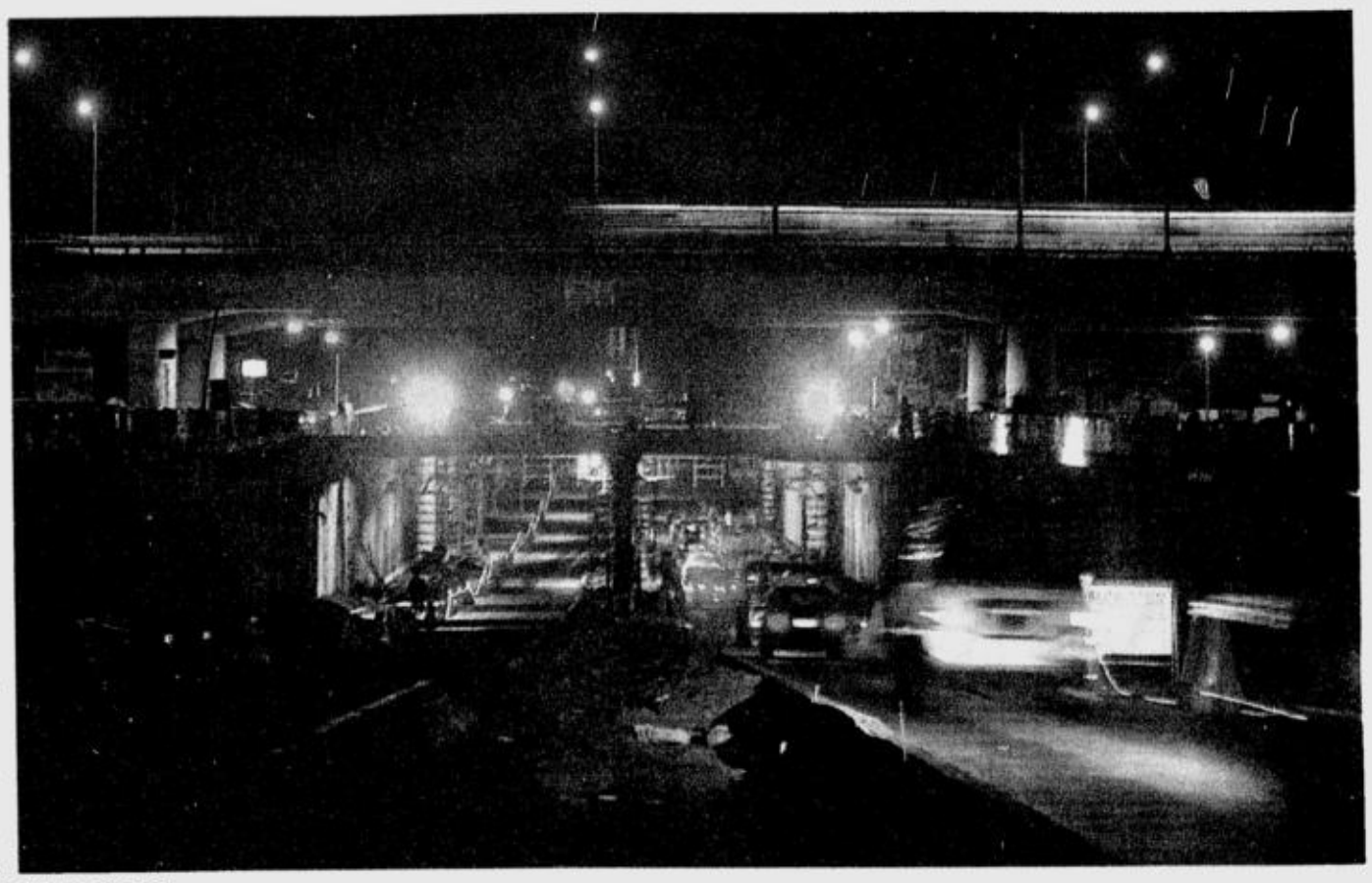
A report completed by the FFIB last year alleged that Ignacio as division schools superintendent of Cavite, in violation of Republic Act No. 3019, "issued two memorandums to the different school officials and teachers to hold their seminars at Rodoraville Resort which she owns, thereby gaining financial interest over the transaction."

The FFIB report also claimed that Ignacio "intentionally did not disclose some of her properties in Cavite" in violation of RA 6713 which obligates public officials and employees to declare their assets, liabilities, net worth and financial business interests.

Besides recommending the filing of criminal complaints, the FFIB also pushed for the filing of administrative charges against Ignacio for "gross dishonesty and conduct unbecoming of a public official for committing the... above violations," Maliksi's statement said.

Ignacio is facing another set of criminal and administrative charges filed also before the deputy Ombudsman for Luzon by Gloria Jaymalin, now a Grade II teacher in Salawag Elementary School in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Ignacio had filed against Jaymalin a series of unsuccessful complaints before the Ombudsman, the Department of Education and the Civil Service Commission. Jaymalin has charged Ignacio with malicious persecution and grave threats.



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JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

# 'No compromise on Mehan'

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute has denied vehemently that it had reached a compromise with Manila city government on the construction of the new City College of Manila on the Mehan Garden.

The NHI also expressed concern about what it described were false statements of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza that construction of the CCM would soon start on the site.

NHI Chair Ambeth Ocampo also denied that he and Atienza had sat down officially to discuss the controversy.

In a letter dated June 17 to Atienza, Ocampo disputed Atienza's declaration that the construction of the new City College of Manila on Mehan Gardens would soon begin.

"We have not approved the construction of the CCM and hope (Atienza) was just misquoted because to date, the institute remains opposed to any construction on the site," Ocampo said in his letter.

He said in the letter that what took place was "a preliminary meeting" on June 7 between the city's representatives and the NHI executive director Danilo Manalang. The two parties merely went over the proposed plans for the CCM, Ocampo said.

He reminded Atienza that there is a standing cease-and-desist order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on any construction on the site.

In an earlier interview with reporters, Atienza said the NHI withdrew its objection to the construction on the condition that the park's historical value would not be destroyed.

The mayor reiterated this on June 15 in his weekly radio program where he announced that Ocampo even asked the city hall to submit its proposed design of the campus.

Atienza said Ocampo knows the plight of the CCM because the NHI chair once served as president of the city-run tertiary school.

### 'Change of heart'

Conservationists who maintain that Mehan should be preserved as a park were upset by the NHI's reported "change of heart" and quickly protested.

In a letter to the NHI dated June 14, Manila-based conservationist and historical researcher Tina Testa expressed apprehension on how archaeological artifacts would be retrieved from the park once the buildings are constructed.

"The city has other properties which can be used for the CCM," she said. "However, these are not too visible to be used as display for (the mayor's) 'Buhayin ang Maynila' program."

Atienza has proposed that two edifices that would form the future campus should be built over stilt-like structures to permit archaeological diggings.

He said the buildings would also be placed on the edges of the Mehan so that no trees would be moved and that the place could remain as a public park.

But Ocampo also said in his letter that he is hoping a compromise could be reached. However, any deal should "satisfy the historical conservation requirements" of the NHI and the National museum.

Ocampo stressed that despite the loss of the historical marker installed at the Mehan by the NHI's predecessor in the 1930s, the site remains historic.

Last March, a panel of experts from various fields of history, urban planing and recommendation was formed by the agency to deliberate on the issues posed by the construction.

The panel recommended that the park be declared a national historical landmark to ensure its legal protection and conservation. This has yet to be approved by the NHI Board.

### Manila's first

Also known as Jardin Botanico, Mehan Garden was established in 1858 during the Spanish colonial period. It is Manila's first zoological and botanical garden.

In 1913, the park was renamed after John C. Mehan, the park's superintendent and sanitation chief during American rule.

The NHI's predecessor, the Philippine Historical Research and Markers Committee, declared the garden historical in October 1934.

Archaeological diggings of Chinese, Thai and Burmese artifacts from the 13th and 14th centuries also confirm that the site was a pre-Hispanic trading post.

During the Spanish period, the eastern half of the Parian, the country's first "Chinatown," was on the Mehan.

### Squabble

Last year, the NHI and Manila City Hall squabbled over the latter's failure to consult the NHI before building on the area and before Atienza designated it as the site of the new CCM campus.

CCM students, faculty members and officials have been complaining that their present campus, which is the old Philippine National Bank building on Escolta Street in Sta. Cruz, is deteriorating and is not conducive to learning.

But the NHI contended that the site is historical and cannot be touched. The DENR stopped the construction after the contractor allegedly cut trees in the park without permission.

City officials and conservation groups that opposed the projects later agreed to form a committee to look for an alternative site for the CCM. The search, however, failed.

The DENR and city hall also had a spat over the building of a P48.5-million parking facility, the Park N Ride, on the northern part of the Mehan.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez halted the construction on Aug. 13, 2001 because the contractor failed to get a permit from the NHI to build on the area.

But Atienza defied the DENR order and directed the contractor to finish building the three-story parking facility, which opened to the public on Dec. 15 last year.

The DENR struck back by fining the contractor P50,000 a day for violating the cease and desist order.

# LP traffic policemen catch 3,151 violators

A TOTAL of 3,151 traffic violators in Las Piñas City were apprehended in a span of five months as a result of the city's campaign against undisciplined drivers and pedestrians.

Records from the Las Piñas Traffic Office said that of the 3,151 apprehended from January to May, 2545 were penalized for traffic obstruction and jaywalking and the rest for disregarding traffic officers, reckless driving, trip-cutting and failure to use seat belts.

The campaign, called "Kaayusan sa Kalsada at Bangketa," is designed to ease the heavy traffic on Alabang-Zapote Road, the city's major road, and to clear the sidewalks of illegal vendors and structures, said Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar.

The enforcement of the tricycle ban along the city's main roads is also strictly implemented, Aguilar said.

He said he has ordered City Traffic Enforcement Unit Chief Supt. Redrico Atienza Maranan to personally supervise the campaign.


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SCOOBY DOO - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
MONSTER'S BALL - R18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
SCOOBY -DOO - GP 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
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# Malabon pays for schools' power bills

THIRTEEN public schools in Malabon City will no longer have to resort to illegal electrical connections since the local government has shouldered their electric bills amounting to more than P4 million.

This was revealed on Wednesday by Dr. Nenita Rivera, superintendent of the Malabon Division of City Schools.

The power supply to the Malabon Elementary School, two units of the Dampalit Elementary School, Maysilo Elementary School, Muzon Elementary School, Catmon Elementary School, Concepcion Elementary School, Santiago Syjuco Memorial School, Santulan Elementary School, Dela Paz Elementary School, two units of the Potrero Elementary School and Bagong Lote Elementary School were cut off two year ago after the schools failed to pay their electricity bills.

As a result, the schools were forced to resort to illegal electric connections until the Manila Electric Co. discovered them early this year.

According to Rivera, based on an agreement with Meralco, the payments must be completed until December.

Rivera said electric meters were installed in the 13 schools before the opening of classes. *Tina Santos*

# We were not told of suspect's arrest . . .

From page A23

Police earlier announced that Patiño remained at large, together with Diosdado "Dado" Santos, Eugene Radan, Sonny Camacho, and Cardeño, the alleged mastermind.

"Why the secrecy of the arrest of Bullet and his quick escape?" asked Leonard de Vera, the lawyer of the Cervantes family.

Yesterday, De Vera called for an independent investigation of the escape of Patiño, suspected Pentagon leader Faizal Marohombsar, and Abdul Macaompang. He said the investigating panel should be composed of representatives of the private sector and the government.

"(If) kidnappers and murderers (can) make an easy escape from the hands of specialized agencies like Naktaf...how can the public feel safe in the streets and secured in our homes?" the lawyer said.

Incoming national police chief Hermogenes Ebdane has sacked at least 24 members of the Special Action Forces who were on duty at the Naktaf detention room when the three suspected kidnappers escaped.

Ebdane described the escape as an inside job aimed at derailing his takeover of the top police post.

# Ativan Gang boss captured

From page A23

In May, they victimized Broudo Gordechai and Sivan Tsachi, police said. Later, they also victimized New Zealander Peter Holyoeke, Chung, Japanese engineer Shushei Uichida, Frenchman Michel Hennequin and American Carolus Julius Kuntze, police said.

Investigators said Hennequin, Kuntze and Uichida positively identified Fabricante after his picture came out in newspapers. Another Korean who was with Chung the night he vanished had also positively identified Fabricante.

According to SPO4 Quilano Molmisa, a member of Salido's team, three days ago they picked up Fabricante's trail in Tanay, Rizal where Fabricante was reported to have been sighted.

Molmisa said that when they went to Tanay, they learned that he had moved out. Molmisa said they managed to track down the moving company that Fabricante hired to move his belongings and learned that he had moved to Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Salido's 12-man team went to Laguna and staked out the house of Fabricante and his brother.

At about 5:30 a.m., Fabricante showed up on board a Mercedes Benz (PGB-573). After a brief chase along the national highway, Fabricante was cornered and yielded to policemen.

Molmisa said Fabricante had been on the run after his face appeared in newspapers. He was moving from place to place and sleeping with his wife and three children in his car and in roadside lodges.

"We will ask the CIDG (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group based in Camp Crame) to look at the evidence," said Deputy Dir. Gen. Edgar Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, who was present when Fabricante was presented to the media.

"We expect more evidence and testimonies to come in," Aglipay added. "From there, the appropriate charges will be filed."

Mayor Binay revived his call for the establishment of night courts in tourist areas.

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# TMG man trapped

By Tina Santos

A MEMBER of the Traffic Management Group in Camp Crame who allegedly attempted to extort money from a group of tricycle drivers was arrested in an entrapment set up by Caloocan City police.

Arrested on Thursday was Police Officer 2 Allan Estrada, according to Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, chief of the Station Intelligence and Investigation Division. Charges of robbery-extortion were filed against Estrada before the city prosecutor's office.

Police said Estrada was caught at about 3 p.m. Thursday at the terminal of the Fourth Avenue Tricycle Drivers Association at the corner of 4th Avenue and Rizal Avenue Extension in Grace Park while in the act of taking P500 which he allegedly had asked from a group of tricycle drivers.

Association president Romeo Paulino said Estrada approached them at the terminal and asked them for a bottle of Fundador brandy. He said Estrada filed charges of traffic violation against them whenever they refused to give him money.

Estrada denied their allegations and said he was only doing his job.


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LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT (Parental Guidance 13)
BAD COMPANY (Parental Guidance 13)
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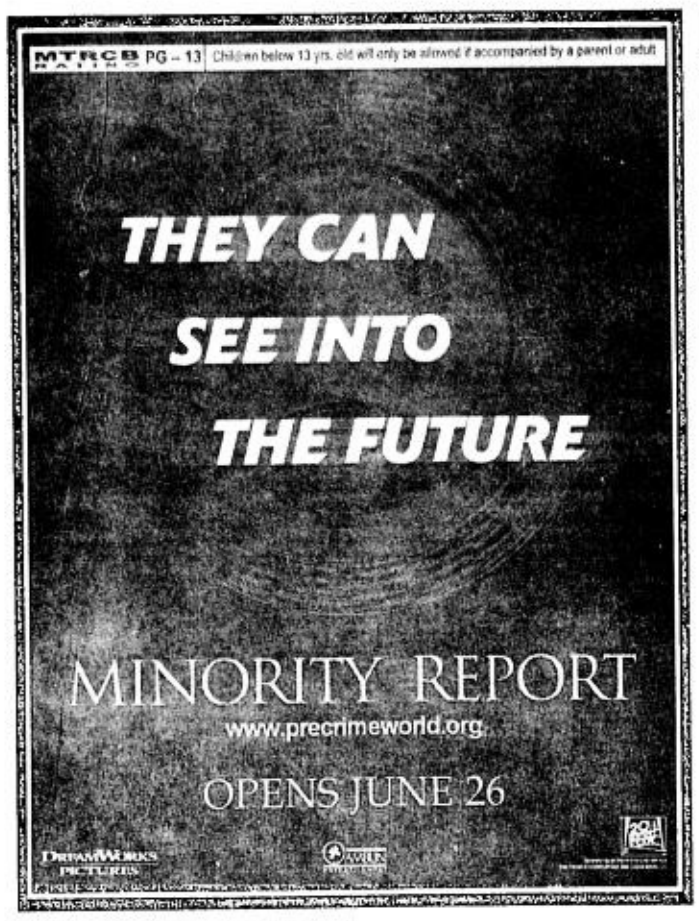
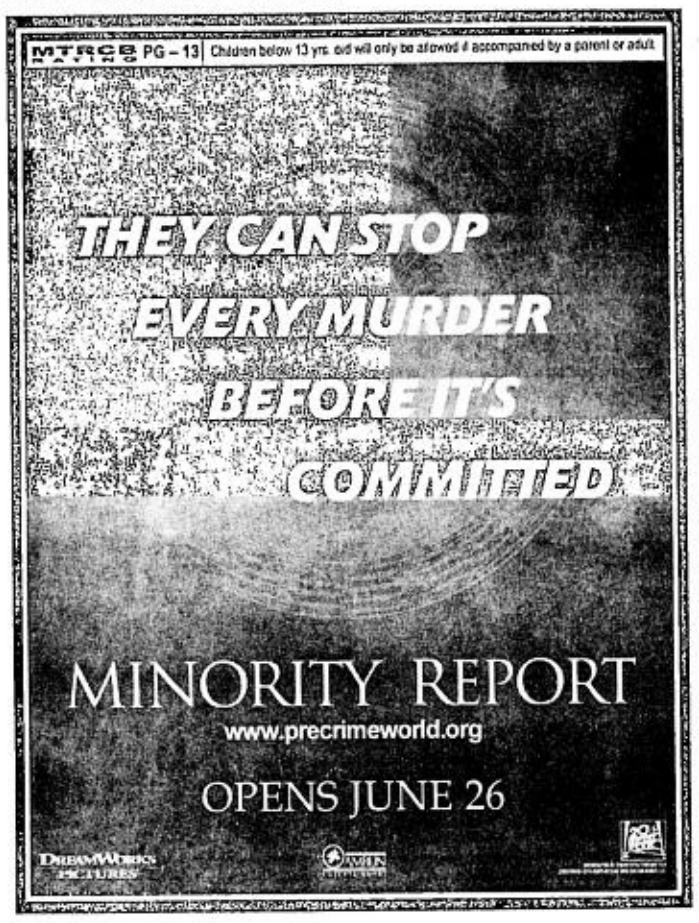
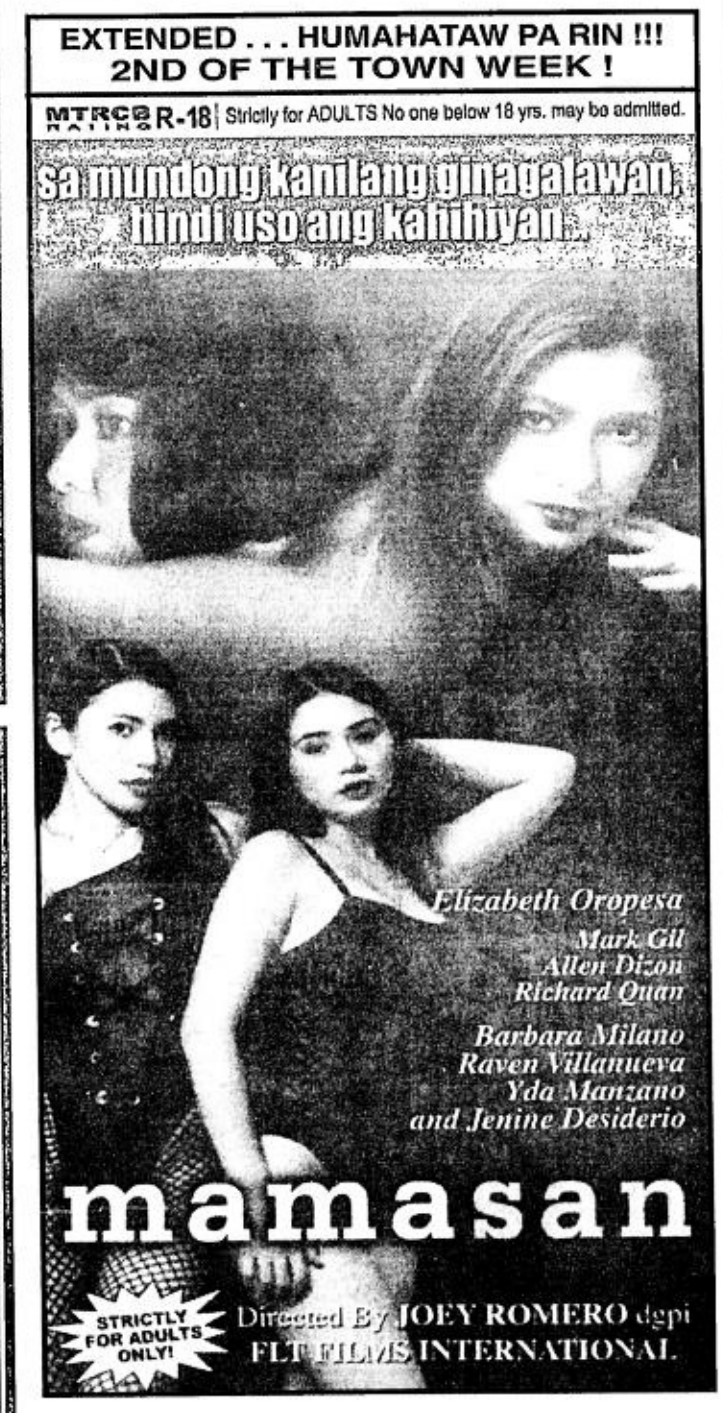
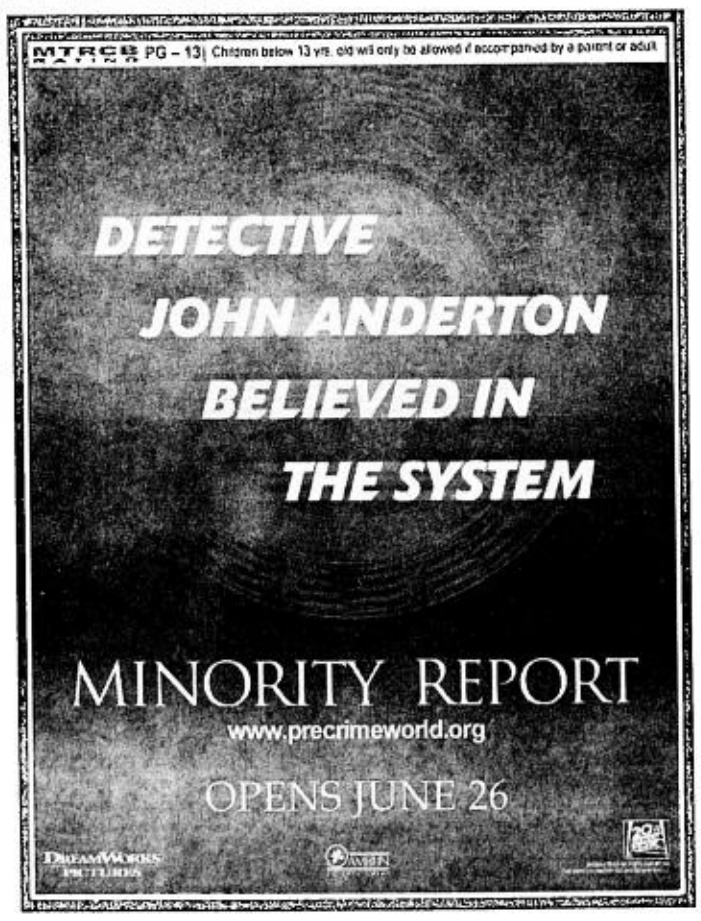
HOPKINS ROCK
BAD COMPANY





# Robbers kill guard

FIVE men killed a security guard when they held up a gasoline station in Quezon City at dawn yesterday.

Police identified the victim as Rogelio Liwag, an employee of Jethro Intelligence and Security Agency assigned to the Shell gasoline station at the corner of Maria Clara and Araneta avenues in Quezon City.

Liwag was shot in the stomach and died while being treated at the Capitol Medical Center.

Investigation showed that the robbery and shooting took place at the Shell station owned by one Rita Ng at about 2 a.m.

The five armed men barged into the gas station's office and one of them pointed his gun at cashier Armando Capita, 28, while the others proceeded to rob the station.

***Agnes E. Donato***

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

**ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101**

| | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | DISKARTE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | MAGKAPATID |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | SCOOBY-DOO |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | MONSTERS BALL |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY) | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY) | SCOOBY-DOO |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY) | DISKARTE |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |

**MANILA**

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX MEDUSA / HIYAS SA PARAISO |
| ODEON | SUM OF FEAR |
| ODEON-2 | MAMASAN |
| ROBEN | DISKARTE |
| TANDEM-1 | ITLOG |
| TANDEM-2 | IKA-7 GLORYA |
| TIMES | COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2 |

**QUEZON CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | MAMASAN |
| REMAR | DISKARTE |
| REMAR-2 | MAMASAN |

**NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| A | DISKARTE |
| B | MAGKAPATID |
| C | SUPER B |

**MANDALUYONG CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | SCOOBY-DOO |
| CINEMA-2 | FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL |

**CAINTA RIZAL**

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | DISKARTE |
| CINEMA-2 | MAMASAN |
| CINEMA-3 | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | MAGKAPATID |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | SUPER B |
| CINEMA-6 | UTANG NI TATANG |
| CINEMA-7 | CASS & CARY |
| CINEMA-8 | MAGKAPATID |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | KILABOT AT KEMBOT |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| CINEMA-11(SDDS) | MAGKAPATID |
| CINEMA-12 | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| CINEMA-14 | DISKARTE |
| CINEMA-15 | SUPER B |

**LORES**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |

**POWER PLANT CINEMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-1 | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| CINEMA-2 | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-3 | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| CINEMA-4 | MONSTER BALL |
| CINEMA-5 | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-6 | SUM OF ALL FEARS |

**UNIWIDE METROMALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PINAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |

**UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARANAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ALIPIN NG TUKSO |
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |

# Ex-artist, student commit suicide

A FORMER comic book illustrator from Makati hanged himself yesterday and a student from Manila shot himself in the head Thursday, according to police.

Danilo Melchor, 42, of Barangay Comembo, Makati, and a former *komiks* artist for Atlas Publishing Co., got hooked on illegal drugs after he lost his job in 1996, said PO1 Ricky Tan of the Makati City police homicide division.

Melchor's body was found yesterday morning by his mother, police said. Policemen said they found drug paraphernalia in his room.

In Manila, student Paul Chelo A. Singian, 21, committed suicide Thursday night after he and his live-in partner, identified only as Rachelle, fought because she did not drink more beer with a classmate of his, police said.

Singian shot himself in the head with a caliber .38 revolver in his home in Tondo, Manila, said Detective Rodolfo M. Rival of the Western Police District homicide section.

Rival said Singian's suicide happened at about 8:45 p.m. Thursday.

Singian came home with an unidentified classmate and decided to drink beer although they were already drunk, the policeman said.

After they had drunk several bottles of beer, Singian's classmate wanted to drink more. Singian was about to buy more bottles but his live-in partner stopped him. She also stopped him from seeing his friend off.

Detective Rival said that the couple quarreled after the classmate had left, and Singian punched Rachelle in the face. She hit him back.

When they stopped, Singian went up to the second floor and took the revolver from his mother's locker. ***Alcuin Papa, Philip C. Tubeza***

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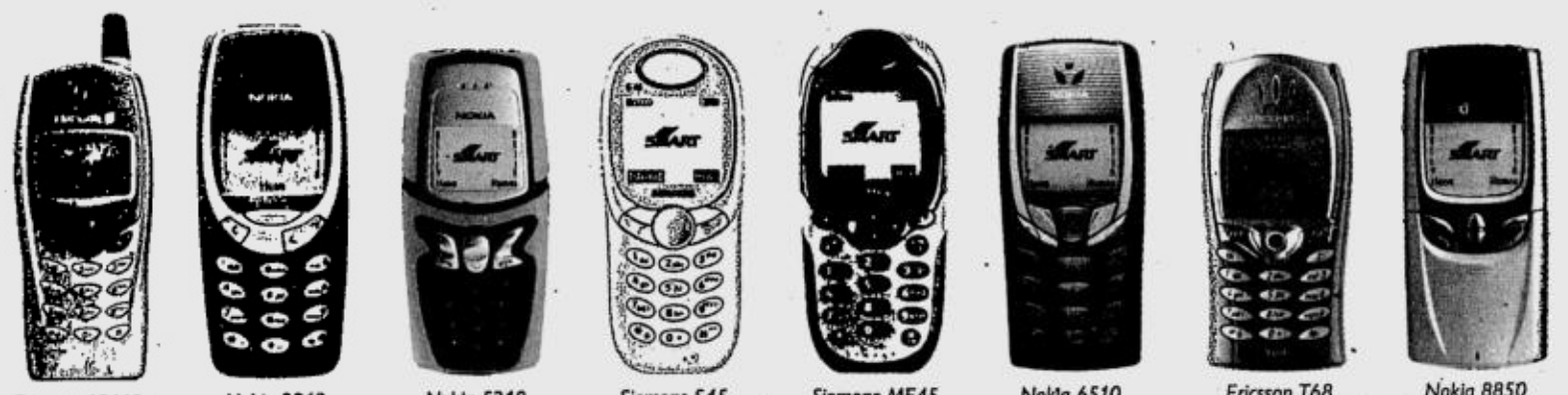

| Ericsson A3618s | Nokia 3310 | Nokia 5210 | Siemens S45 | Siemens ME45 | Nokia 6510 | Ericsson T68 | Nokia 8850 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gold Rave | Gold Standard | Gold Choice | | | Gold Select | Gold Premium | |
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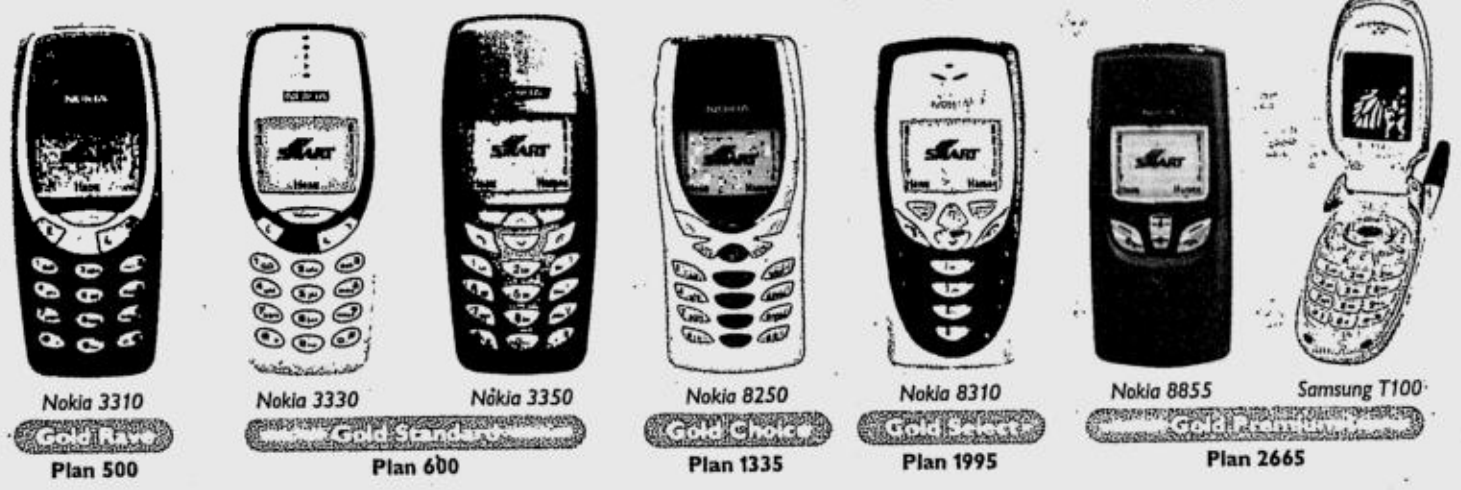

| Nokia 3310 | Nokia 3330 | Nokia 3350 | Nokia 8250 | Nokia 8310 | Nokia 8855 | Samsung T100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gold Rave | Gold Standard | | Gold Choice | Gold Select | Gold Premium | |
| Plan 500 | Plan 600 | | Plan 1335 | Plan 1995 | Plan 2665 | |

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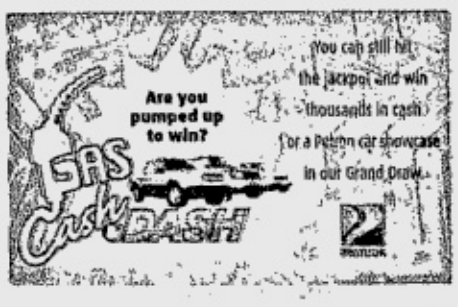



SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

# BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo @ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

# PLDT chief says NTT talks positive

By Abigail L. Ho and Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said yesterday that his talks with key shareholder Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co. were fruitful, but he declined to disclose what was discussed.

"Positive and productive, and that's all I can say," Pangilinan told reporters after his brief trip to Tokyo.

Pangilinan was believed to be seeking NTT's support to block a bid from tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. to acquire a controlling interest in PLDT, the country's largest phone company, from Hong Kong conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd.

Asked on Friday if he had secured NTT's support, Pangilinan replied: "No comment."

Sources close to the Pangilinan camp said, however, that the PLDT chief had informed his top managers that NTT would soon declare its support behind their efforts to foil a Gokongwei takeover.

There were, however, some tradeoffs, according to these sources, as NTT was said to be demanding "radical" reforms in the way PLDT was being managed, but that Pangilinan was confident PLDT's "key" management team would be retained, and that the Gokongwei deal would be aborted.

Other sources close to Pangilinan said NTT "is more inclined to us."

Another well-placed source admitted, however, that Pangilinan and his supporters were still hanging in the balance, as NTT had yet to formally express its commitment to stand by their side.

"We need their right of first refusal," he said.

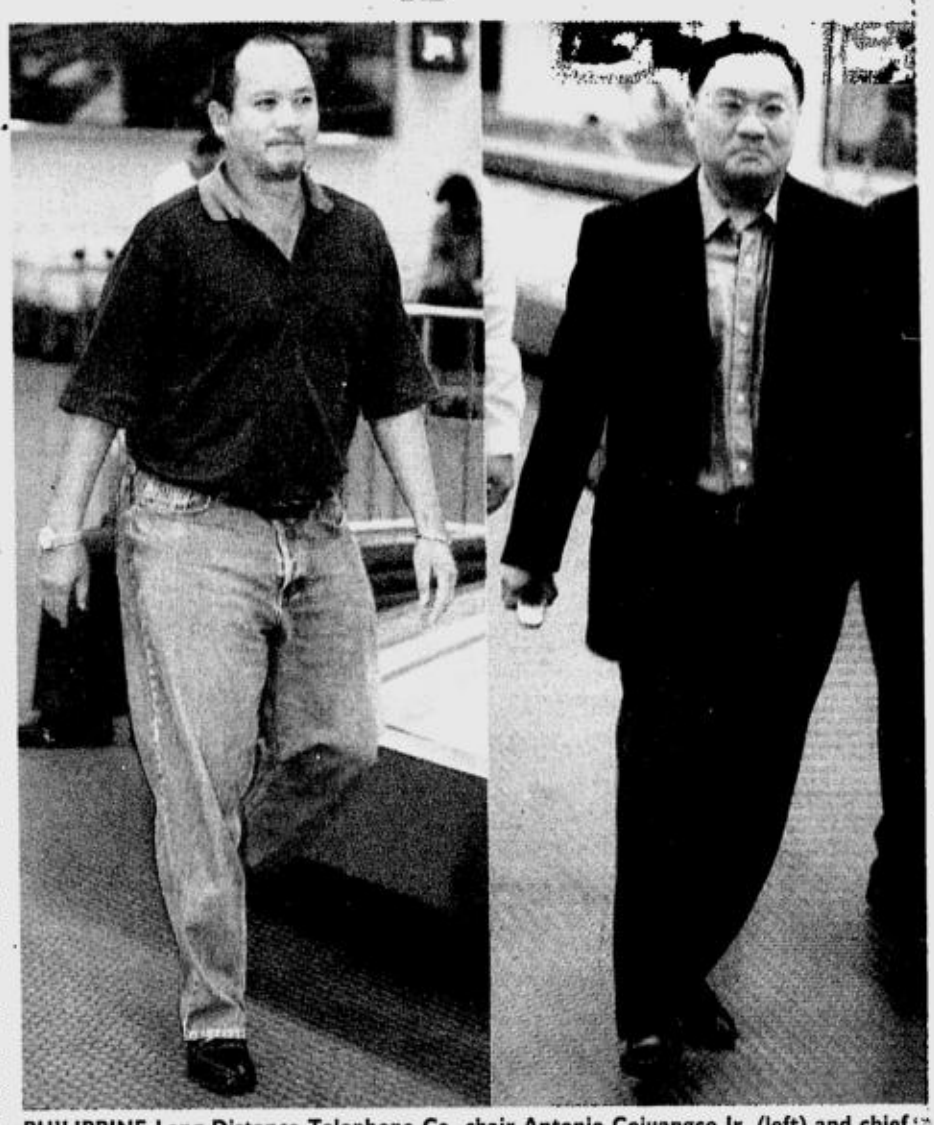
First Pacific has yet to formally inform NTT of its deal with Gokongwei, so NTT does not have to rush into any decision for or against any of the involved parties.

"NTT does not have to do anything until 20 days after First Pacific gives sale notice, which it has not done yet. This will take a long time to resolve. They (NTT) will wait," a person familiar with the matter said.

NTT holds a 15-percent stake in PLDT and two board seats and is considered the pivotal player in the struggle as it has the right of first refusal should First Pacific sell its holdings.

Gokongwei and First Pacific have agreed to form a joint venture that will hold the Hong Kong firm's 24.47-percent stake in PLDT—the single biggest—and the 50.4-percent stake of

PLDT/ B3

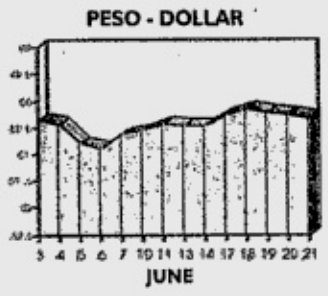


PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. (left) and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan back from a 'positive and productive' meeting with Nippon Telephone and Telegraph Corp. in Tokyo. ROGER MARGALLO

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR




GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.32 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 21, 2002

¥ 123.25 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 21, 2002

GOLD: $323.80/324.30

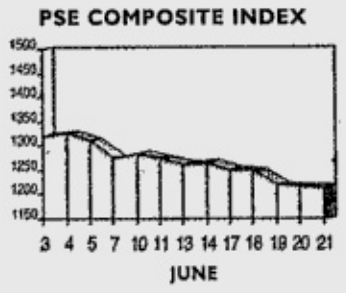
per ounce Hong Kong, June 21, 2002

### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks at new 5-month low

STOCKS closed at a fresh five-month low on Friday with investor sentiment dampened by weak US and Asian markets.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX




(See stock market report on Page B6)

Traders said market participants were also putting off investments until the release of second-quarter corporate results due from around end-July.

Some fund managers may also be reviewing and reallocating their portfolio with the first half of the year nearly over, traders said.

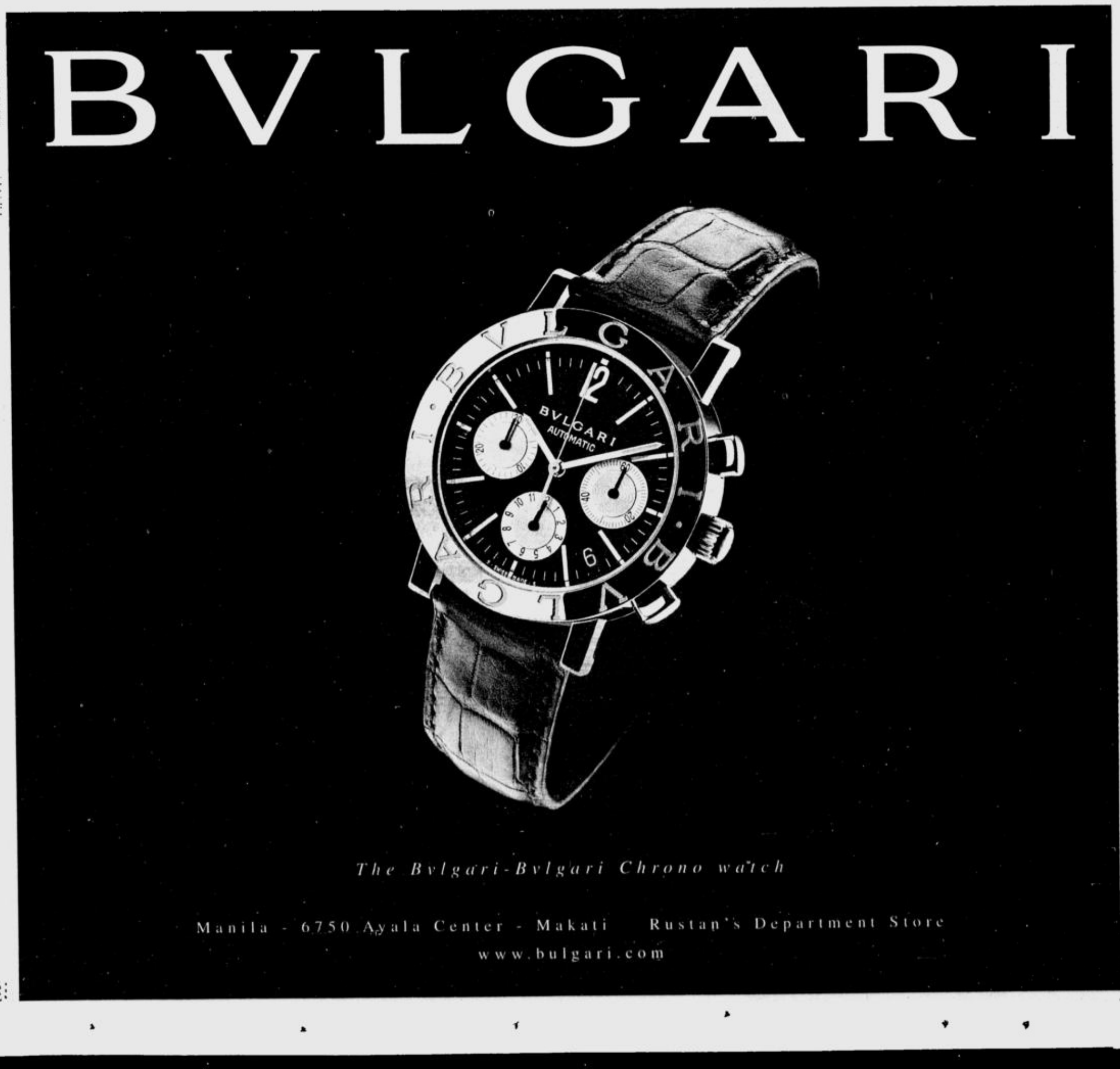
"We could be affected by weakness in US markets, and the entire region is very sluggish. If you look at our market, since the start of the year we were leading in the region, now we are in a deep correction phase," said Allan Araullo, vice president of Regina Capital Development Corp.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index slid 3.13 points, or 0.26 percent, to end at 1,214.15 points, after trading within a tight range of about 12 points.

Property firms led by heavyweight Ayala Land Inc. fell on speculation real estate prices would be pushed down sharply with the perceived low valuation attached to the property assets that Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. planned to sell to the Gokongwei group.

Ayala Land slid 1.79 percent, or 10 centavos, to end at P5.50 and mall

STOCKS/ B6



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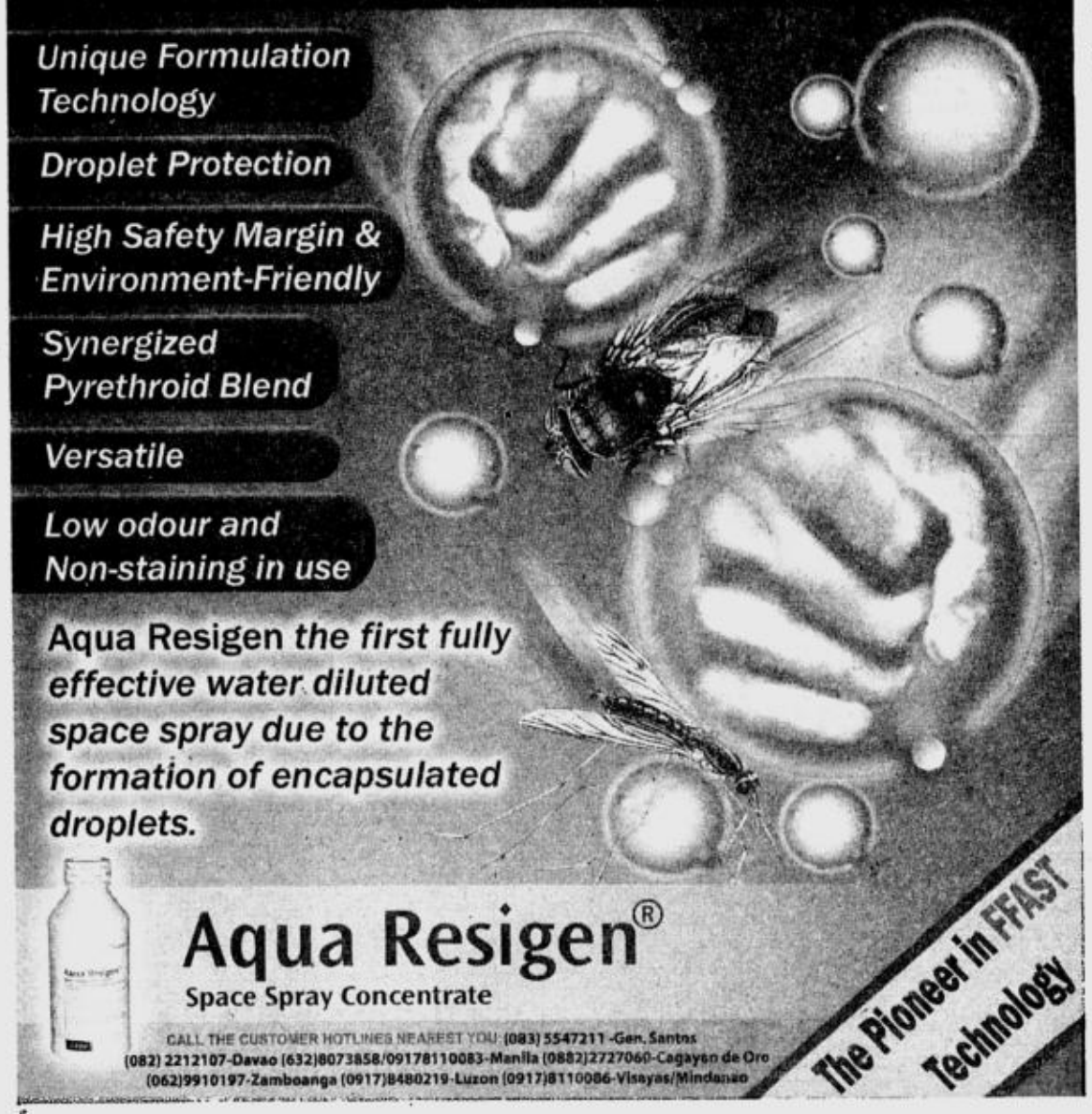

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# External debt up $1B to $53.4B in Q1

By Doris C. Dumlao

PUSHED by government borrowings to fund a budget deficit, the country's foreign debt climbed $1 billion to $53.4 billion in the first quarter of the year from end-2001 level, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

In a statement, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the 1.9-percent increase from the end-2001 level of $52.4 billion was due to fresh foreign exchange inflows from foreign bonds issued by the public sector early this year. The public sector's share to the country's total outstanding debt increased to 65.4 percent as of end-March from 64.4 percent in end-2001 after it raised $2 billion from international investors.

"These international issues demonstrate the continued confidence of investors in the country and their willingness to commit substantial funds to support government projects," Buenaventura said.

During the first quarter, the country's gross international reserves or dollar holdings jumped by $1.7 billion.

"The GIR reached nearly $17.4 billion as of end-March, representing more than three times the level of short-term debt. The high level of GIR renders the local economy less vulnerable to sudden shifts in investor sentiment and capital flight, and the local currency less vulnerable to speculative attacks," Buenaventura said.

Buenaventura also noted that the maturity profile of the country's debts remained heavily biased in favor of long-term accounts with an average maturity of 16.1 years. Long-term accounts represent 90 percent of the total debt stock.

The BSP chief also said the country's creditor-base remained diversified, an indication of the country's ability to attract various types of creditors.

Official creditors such as international financial institutions, foreign governments and their agencies accounted for 44 percent of the total debt stock while obligations to foreign holders of bonds and notes accounted for 28 percent.

Obligations to private banks and financial institutions remained almost unchanged at 23 percent of the total while non-bank creditors such as suppliers accounted for 5 percent.

# BOP posts surplus of $2B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' balance of payment in the first three months of the year showed a surplus a $2.157 billion, a reversal from the $512 million deficit posted in the same period last year.

The surplus was attributed to higher dollar remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the improvement in the levels of trade, investments and borrowings.

In March alone, the BOP surplus grew by 130 percent to $1.503 billion from $654 million in the previous month.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura attributed the high payments surplus to the performance of the current and capital/ financial accounts.

An indicator of investors' confidence and the country's ability to settle its obligations, the BOP is influenced by two items—current account and capital/ financial account. The first indicates the movement in trade while the second mirrors the flow of investments and borrowings.

A BOP surplus means the inflow of funds—as a result of trade, investments and borrowings, is greater than the outflow. A BOP surplus position implies that there is lesser need for the government to buy dollars from the market to fund the country's obligations, which, in turn, means lesser pressure on the peso.

The current account yielded a surplus of $2.323 billion as of March, which was 39 percent higher compared with the year-ago surplus of $1.675 billion.

The positive movement in the trade account reflected the slowdown in export contraction in the three-month period. Export receipts dropped by 6.4 percent in the three-month period. The rate, however, was lower than the 7.9 percent fall registered in the first two months and the 15.7-percent decline last year.

Imports in March dropped by 7.9 percent, also lower than the 9.8-percent contraction in January and February. ***With a report from Doris C. Dumlao***


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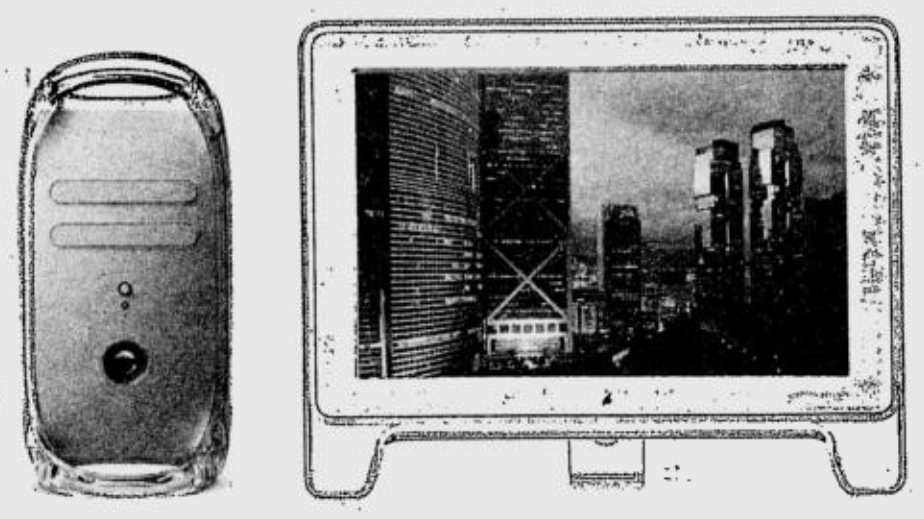

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# Banks' past due auto loans seen declining

THE RATIO of the banks' past due auto loans to their total loan exposure to this sector has slowed down to 5.4 percent in the first quarter of this year from 6.3 percent a year ago due to improved collections and a slower loan expansion.

In an interview, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas deputy governor for bank supervision Alberto Reyes said the combined auto loan exposure of the country's 43 commercial banks and over 100 thrift banks stood at P32.7 billion during the first three months of the year. This was lower than the banks' auto loan exposure of P34.5 billion as of end-2001 but higher than the P28.7 billion recorded in the same quarter last year.

The auto loan past due ratio is lower than the 6 percent posted in the fourth quarter of 2001.

"This means that the banks are able to collect more," he said.

Of the total outstanding auto loans, Reyes noted that the exposure of commercial banks amounted to P9.1 billion or 27.8 percent of the total amount while thrift banks accounted for the bulk of P23.6 billion or 72.2 percent.

Banks have remained conservative in extending consumer loans, including car loans, despite the improving market for cars this year.

From January to April this year, motor vehicle sales expanded by 5.9 percent from a year ago to 24,496 units, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines.

Passenger car sales grew by 7.4 percent while sales of commercial vehicles such as trucks, buses, sport utility vehicles and vans rose by 43.6 percent. ***Doris C. Dumlao***

## GOINGS-ON

### New name

SHELL companies in the Philippines country chair Eliseo Santiago announced that Shell Renewables Philippines Corp. had changed its name to Shell Solar Philippines Corp.

The move aims to give more emphasis to the promotion of solar energy in improving the quality of life and increasing the productivity of remote communities with no medium- or long-term potential of being connected to an electricity grid.

Shell Renewables was incorporated in October 1999.

### Free seminars

THE MOST successful food show of 2001 is back. Slated again this year from Aug. 2 to 4 at the World Trade Center, interesting and practical seminar topics have been lined up for free. Foreign and local industry experts will discuss at no cost to participants the following topics: Catering Know-how, Profit in Beverages, Managing Small Scale Food Business, Packaging and Labeling Food Products, and Bartending Basics. For inquiries, call Premier Events Plus Group Inc. at 436-4711 to 12, 929-7993/63 or visit the website www.PEPGroup.com.

### New WE Bank branches

EAST WEST Bank has inaugurated its 39th branch in San Fernando, Pampanga.

EW Bank president and COO Elrey Ramos said the San Fernando branch opening formed part of the bank's aggressive expansion program in Northern Luzon. The bank is scheduled to inaugurate this month its branches in Cabanatuan, Dagupan and Baguio in June.

East West Bank will also start operations in Lucena, Calamba, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga this year.

As of the first quarter this year, East West Bank's total resources amounted to P13.5 billion, representing a 25- to 30-percent growth from year-ago level.

### MBC Forum

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez will be Makati Business Club's guest speaker in a forum on June 24, 12 noon at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati. The month of June marks the first anniversary of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

The secretary will speak on the privatization of Napocor and Transco, and the outlook for electricity prices.

BUSINESS, REAL PROPERTY

# Manila's top taxpayers honored

THE CITY of Manila, as part of the week-long celebration of the 431st Araw ng Maynila, has honored the city's top taxpayers for last year.

The honorees were classified into two: Top Ten Business Taxpayers and Top Ten Real Property Taxpayers.

Manila's top 10 business taxpayers and the corresponding taxes they paid are as follow: Unilever Phils. Inc., P49.67 million; Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc., P30.07 million; Tanduay Distillers Inc., P25.3 million; Asian Terminals Inc., P21.8 million; Shoemart Inc., P19 million; San Miguel Corp., P16.9 million; Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., P12.28 million; Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp., P11.66 million; Jollibee Food Corp., P10.96 million, and McGeorge Food Industries Inc., P10.57 million.

Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc. also topped the list of Manila's biggest real property taxpayer with P26.59 million paid in property tax. The others in the top 10 list are Asian Terminals Inc., P24,695,897; Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, P22.8 million; Unilever Phils. Inc., P16.56 million; Tutuban Properties Inc., P15.7 million; SM Prime Holdings Inc., P10.3 million; Diamond Hotel & Resort Inc., P9.68 million; Manila Midtown Commercial Corp., P8.77 million; San Miguel Corp., P6.96 million, and, Petrophil, P6.69 million.

The city government also gave a special award of recognition to three new business locators—South Supermarket, Designer Depot and Landbank of the Philippines.

Landbank of the Philippines was cited for relocating to its new 35-story headquarters in Ermita; Designer Depot for transforming an idle property in San Andres into a unique shopping storehouse selling branded clothes and fashion accessories at low prices, and South Supermarket for putting up its first ever branch in Manila.

The honorees were awarded plaques of recognition and appreciation by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Atienza, in his speech during the awarding ceremonies, said the taxes paid by companies in Manila enabled the city government to pursue more aggressively its "Buhayin ang Maynila" urban renewal program.

"The taxes would allow us to eventually achieve our shared vision for Manila—a city that is vibrant, colorful and progressive."

He also cited the entry of new business locators as an affirmation of the effectiveness of the city government's efforts in the past four years to create a business-friendly environment.

# Danaharta seen assuming active role in Nat'l Steel

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PENGURUSAN Danaharta Nasional Bhd. wants to have a say in disposing the assets and charting the strategic direction of National Steel Corp. in exchange for agreeing to lower its equity in the shuttered steel giant.

A source said Danaharta has requested that all major decisions, specifically on the sale of assets or change in business direction, in the post-rehabilitation of NSC should be undertaken only after a unanimous approval by the board.

Under the proposed rehabilitation plan, Danaharta's stake in NSC is expected to drop to 15 percent from its present level of 82 percent through a debt-to-equity conversion program.

With a lower equity stake, Danaharta was concerned that Malaysians would have very little say in any major corporate decisions to be made after the debt rehabilitation plan.

The source said creditor banks were looking seriously at the Malaysians' proposal specially if this would pave the way for the approval of NSC's long delayed rehabilitation program.

The Department of Trade and Industry has been leading the negotiations between Danaharta and Philippine banks to end the protracted dispute on how to rehabilitate NSC back to profitability. The respective boards of the Philippine banks have already given the green light to convert part of their exposure in NSC to debt to spark more interest from potential investors.

NSC's Iligan plant has been closed since November 1999 as the steel giant crumbled under the weight of P16 billion in debt to Philippine creditor banks and tough competition from cheap Russian steel imports.

Danaharta took over the holdings of the Hottick-Renong group in NSC in 2000 due to the latter's failure to pay its 3 billion ringgit overdue loan from Malayan Banking, RHB Bank, Bank Bumiputra and Commerce Assetholding Bhd.

Hottick-Renong used the loan to bail out the original Malaysian owners of NSC, the Westmont group.

# PLDT chief says NTT talks positive

From page B1

its Philippine unit, Metro Pacific Corp., in Bonifacio Land Corp.

The Gokongweis will pay the cash-hungry First Pacific over $600 million for a two-thirds stake in the joint venture.

The PLDT board, including Pangilinan, opposes the deal, saying it will be detrimental to the company's finances and to shareholder value, prompting talk of a management-led buy-out.

### Years to resolve

NTT, whose stake in PLDT is held through its long distance unit, NTT Communications Corp., has so far declined to reveal its position on the Gokongwei-First Pacific agreement.

On Thursday, reports said First Pacific had sent Anthoni Salim, second son of its majority owner, Seodono Salim of Indonesia, as well as its executive director, Ronald Brown, to Tokyo to discuss the situation with NTT officials.

A First Pacific spokesperson denied this on Thursday, but sources close to the situation said the executives were meeting NTT officials on Friday afternoon.

A person familiar with the situation said this meeting could still turn the tables on Pangilinan's group in favor of the Gokongweis.

"It's possible," he said.

The whole issue, however, may take years to resolve, as the Pangilinan camp may use legal ways to block Gokongwei's entry into PLDT.

"The legal obstacles Salim and First Pacific will have to hurdle are formidable. The anti-competitor clause in the by-laws of PLDT are patterned after the same by-laws of San Miguel Corp. that prevented Gokongwei from getting a board seat in the giant food company," one source with PLDT said.

He said First Pacific could not even hurdle the simplest part of its $925-million deal with Gokongwei: due diligence.

"They have advised the Gokongweis that there is no need for due diligence on PLDT since there is a wealth of publicly available information on the company. This was declined by the Gokongweis. They insist on due diligence. Legal observers believe just the issue of whether First Pacific and the Gokongweis as competitors should be allowed due diligence will take years for the courts to resolve," one source said.

### Not in the picture

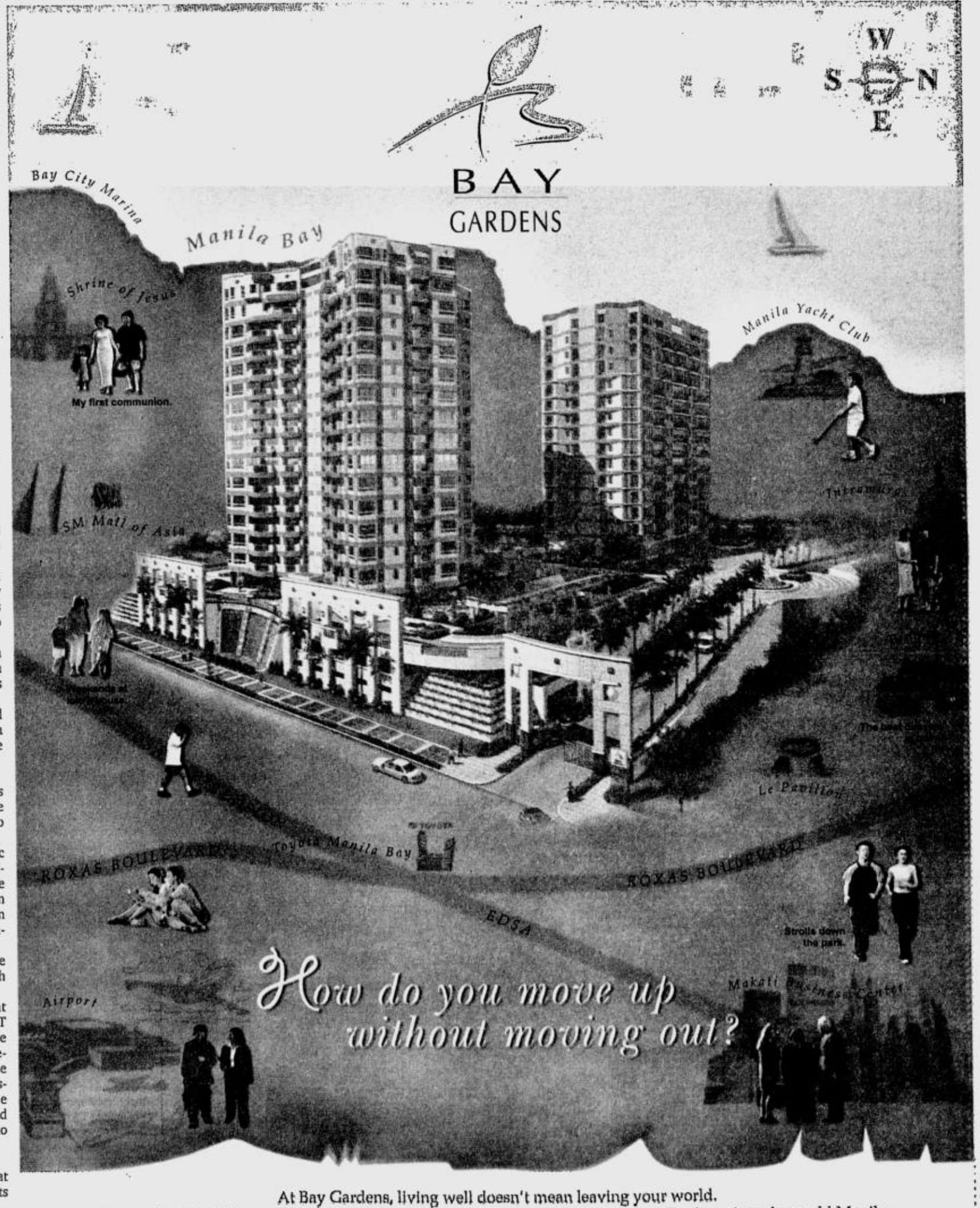
First Pacific, meanwhile, has clarified that JG Summit Holdings Inc. is not a party to its deal with Gokongwei.

The Securities and Exchange Commission had asked publicly listed JG Summit to show cause why it should not be penalized for failing to disclose that it was part of the deal.

The SEC cited First Pacific's filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission that it entered into a legally binding agreement with the Gokongwei family and the Gokongwei group, including JG Summit Holdings, for the joint venture.

In a letter to Gokongwei on June 19, First Pacific executive director and general counsel Ronald Brown said any reference to JG Summit in the filing "is merely descriptive of the various members of the Gokongwei group."

"This description simply reflected our internal understanding that the Gokongwei group is a Manila-based group whose holding company, JG Summit Holdings Inc., has substantial business interests in real estate and hotels, petrochemicals, branded consumer foods, agro-industrial commodity food products, airline and telecommunications. There never was any intention that JG Summit Holdings Inc. itself would be a contracting party to the proposed joint venture," Brown said. ***With reports from Elena R. Torrijos and Reuters***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**MAKATI**

Zapote nr J.P Rizal 246m² P35T 5646503 5633742 09178473744

**MANILA**

500 QR 1,189SQM ADRIATICO ST., NR COR NAKPIL MALATE MLA. SUSAN 2414194 LOC 1 OFF HR

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

**PARANAQUE**

FOR SALE — FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED

**ONE BEATRIZ TOWER**
1st Class COMML-OFFICE RESL CONDO.
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
COMPARE & CONSIDER:
1. 1st CLASS AMENITIES NAME IT... WE HAVE IT!!!
2. ACCESSIBILITY - SCHOOLS/Areas UP, Miriam, Ateneo, PSBA, NCBA, BANKS, Other Bus. Establishments & TRANSPO to any part of M.Mla
3. X'lent VIEW (360°) of the Metropolis w/ roof - top S. POOL & Garden
4. WHY BUY IF NOT FINISHED BUY & TRANSFER NOW! SEE... IS TO BELIEVE!!!
FOR BUSY INVESTORS/BUSINESS MEN WE ARE OPEN UNTIL 9:00 p.m.
*FEW UNITS LEFT*
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL#: 922-4469/921-4883 433-7668/433-8842

### LOT

**MANDALUYONG**

335m² P12M 5780263

**MUNTINLUPA**

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

**QUEZON CITY**

**CORINTHIAN HILLS**
302@49T/sqm Neg. 746-0237

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots Now Phase 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(in 2 months)
Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest
HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB
150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @
P6M P13M 2 yrs - 10 yrs
Term w/ Complete Facilities
9319117 ★ 9319160 T.Banez

★SCT CASTOR NR MORATO★
3sty 3br 3tb 2cg 3.2M
Au 6873372 / 6391694

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS CHOICE LOTS with VIEW 929-1632 • 425-5650

**RIZAL**

★THE RICHDALE★
No. 1 Subd in Antipolo along Sumulong Hiway
300m²&up @P4000/m²
cool panoramic overlooking
Au 6873372 / 6391694

**PROVINCIAL**

1-3 HEC AGUINALDO H-WAY ANABU II BET MAKRO & ORCHARD IMUS CAVITE SUSAN 2414194 LOC 1 OFF HR

**LOT USE FOR ANY PURPOSE**
30,768 sqm Capas, Tarlac
50m away fr McHi-way
Tel: 0916-4139874

SAN PABLO 2054 sqm hgwy near Meralco 8522262

TAAL Bings 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

The Right Place to invest
**Cavite Light Ind'l Park**
With 1.98 Hec. Commercial Blk. Phase I Ready for Move-In Phase II at Php. 1,600/sqm Maguyam Rd, Carmona Cavite Tel 634-2956 / 635-8108 Roy Brokers are Welcome

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

**OTHER AREAS**

**COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE**
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

**CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES**
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

**VILLA FELIZA HOMES**
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

**FORTE REALTY**
810-8019 829-5081
810-7183 872-7603
815-2144 871-8318
961-7521 893-4206
776-4604
Welcome Brokers & Agents
visit us at
www.forterealty.com

### LOT

**OTHER AREAS**

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P680T Vic 8903461L.27

### CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

**MAKATI**

**C5 Nr The Fort 988T**
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD! Ven • 0917-8169849

**Only P9,000++/mo.**
Own 2BR condo nr. Mkti Megamall READY 4 OCCUPANCY! Inquire now at 641-1782 for more info

**MANDALUYONG**

2Flr / 2BR Condo 57.5sqm 500T Assume Bal. 535-7567

**PARANAQUE**

WESTMONT CONDO SUCAT 2BDRM 0917-9914974

**PASIG**

1.4M 2b 2t 1cg nr malls 9164085 24hr MWSS tel CATV nice quiet

5 Yrs 2 Pay 0 Int + Big Discount 671-2049 / 9651

CRISANTA TOWER NR ULTRA 2BR 2TB 1PRKNG 634-1212

**Only 13,000++/mo.**
Own a condo unit Along Ortigas Ave inside S&R comm'l complex With end amenities BIG DISCOUNTS OFRDI 655-1654/1882

**QUEZON CITY**

**1.8M Nr ABS-CBN**
10% D.P. payable in 6 mos Balance 10 or 15 years to pay Call 926-4070 ; 924-1402

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

Rush Landsdale 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

UNION SQ ONE FA60m² P1.9M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

### RESORT

Pansol 2Unts Cml 7.3M 7767507

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

**MAKATI**

1228 Cardona St. Res/Ofc 3BR Mds 2TB Tel 20T/mo 8950580

3BR W/TEL PARKING 8446392

**MANILA**

Apt 7841746/6682108

**MANDALUYONG**

**845 Samat St.,**
Mand. City • 533-7709 to 12

**QUEZON CITY**

70 Mapang-akit St. 254-3576

CUBAO STUDIO Apt P4T T9116769 CP 09174224996

•P5.5T Studio T-9267419

SFDM 1&2br 10Tmo 3725866

### HOUSE

**ALABANG**

AYALABANG 66T Incl VAT 720LOT 450FLOOR 4BDRMS 5BTH DENXALA DNING LNAI 894-2684 FEPOT OFF HRS.

**PASIG**

**#17 San Agustin,**
Capitol 8, Pasig City, ofc hrs 8152398 • 8183108 after ofc 6712114

**RIZAL**

2 STRY HSE 3 BR 2 TB FF MORONG RIZAL CALL:FLO 656-0615

**SAN JUAN**

Greenhills 7265340/7244529 Sundays 09178165103

**PROVINCIAL**

Laguna BelAir Sale/Rent 049-5410459 • 0917-8128700

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MAKATI**

1BR Furn South Str Plz **844-7524**

KWOOD Mkti 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 899-6632

new studio/2BR/clinic/com'l P9T up • no association dues 1672 Dian St., Mkti. nr Buendia. Korean nationality is welcome!!! LOOKING 4 KOREAN BROKER Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

**MANILA**

Bnew 2BR Cmpd w/Terrace 12.5T Strg H2O • 563-7395

Brand New Studio 5T/mo. Strg H2O 563-7395, 562-7854

**MANDALUYONG**

Ofis 32m² ShawTower 8127760

**PASIG**

AIC Ort 3BR 35K 723-2391

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

**MULTI-PURPOSE LOAN**
★ Bank Employees
★ Employees of top corporations
★ Facility member's of top educational institutions
- From 1.5% interest
- P15,000 to P1,000,000
- Payable in 12 to 36 easy installments
- No collateral
- No processing fee
- No PDC

*Requirements:*
Latest payslip, ITR, proof of billing, company ID, & other valid IDs Interested parties, pls. contact
Beth - 253-3517
Riza - 231-5443
Myrna - 253-4139

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**PASIG**

**Emerald Condo Ortigas**
2BR Furnished • 633-0164

HORIZON CONDO ORTIGAS 2BR/BATH FULLY FURNISH 8429278 MRS. GASTON

Mega Plz Std 12T FF 4121825

**SAN JUAN**

★Greenhills 3BR P25-30K Furnished/Unfurn • 723-2391

★Lit Baguio Twnhse FA-300 3BR FFurn 50K • 723-2391

### FOR LEASE

124 sqm 2F DAO I BLDG 189 SALCEDO ST, LEGASPI VILL, MKTI. TEL 8928970

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

Warehouse Libis QC 600-900sqm 180/sqm • 723-2391

Coml 2sty bldg G/F 444m² 2/F 499m² cor. busy street nr QC Hall 09196653869

### ROOM & BOARD

Malate Male 2.5T 536-8264

New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" Tel.6451185/6810992

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

**Car Sangla While-U-Wait 30 Mins. Cash / No Gimmick!**
9241254 • 9264160 • 9259121

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigle/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

### BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3510652

GUD BUS / OFFICE KAPITOLYO FA 125 SQM CALL 634-1212

MKTI ofc/clinic 8439418 Rose

ROBINSON'S GALLERIA Dental Clinic For Rent Please Call 8122843

### TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**HONDA**

CIVIC ESI '93 T9975372

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**NISSAN**

Vanette '93 15ST 9267433

**TOYOTA**

Crla 91 GL A1 P175T 9119127

'79 TwnAce 5ST 09175403845

**OTHER CAR BRANDS**

Prado Trooper Pajero Mu Safari Terrano Surf Hi-Town Ace Delica Suzuki A1 tx pd 09178342020/09178144526

### HEAVY EQUIPMENT/TRANSPORT

Executive Aircraft Beechcraft Baron B55 Fax (02)850-9018 For Information

WB Roller 49T&etc 3672002

Genset-weld machine3610215

### TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4530295

**Starex MB100 Coaster Bus**
Call 631-3496 • 537-7396

BNEW VAN 8254058 8261045

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans Cheap 8203894

H'ACE Van MM/Prov. 7806589

• HI ACE VANS 825-2988 •

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

Toyco Self Drive Carvan Coaster Rental •800-6595•

### WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

### CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4660166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966533

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

### GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### FURNITURE

P45Tup Kawai Yamaha O/B No Int. 6mos. Pay 9240834

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

Urgently Needed
**Office personnel: Male/Female**
Experienced in importation of meat product

For Immediate Hiring
**Sales Representative: Male/Female**
With experience in food industry/ retail and wholesale selling.
Apply personally at:
Charon Enterprise Inc.
16 Rosario St., Bgy. Kaunlaran, Quezon City
Tel. 7220005-06

### GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Generator:Coleman 5KVA 30T Almost Nw 09175248907 8958560

### HOME APPLIANCE

34&29"Sony/Tosba REF 10to18 CUFT All A1/Imported 7767507 18 units

### PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER TRAINS DOGS w/COMPETENCE BOARDING/HOME SERVICE PUPPYCARE T 0919-7414590

Shih-Tzu Pups 812-3216

### SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8014494/8020566

RUSH! GOLF COMPLETE SET 4 LADIES P20T 0917-2429078

### WANTED TO BUY

**ANY ROLEX**
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN Glo 7137284 09177939632

**BUYING ROLEX**
others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269587/4123543

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

TV/COMPO 7325865

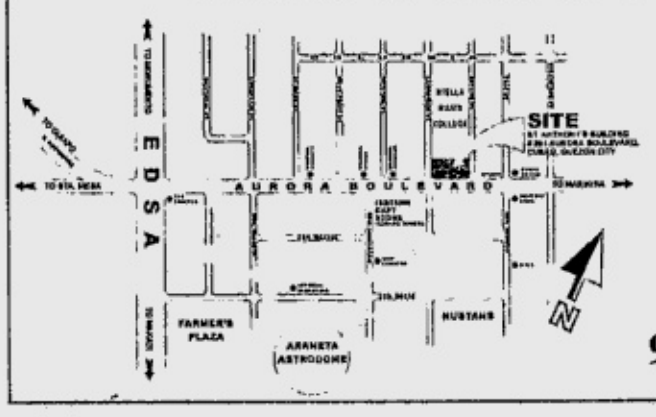
**WE BUY GOLD**
**HIGHEST PRICE**
**CALL: 8380946 8390060**

### MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

**GARAGE SALE FURNITURE/ APPLIANCES**
No. 15 Polaris St., Bel Air Village, Makati, Tel. No. 897-22-03
June 22-23, 2002 at 10:00am-4:00pm (Sat/Sun)

**INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS**




Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.

For inquiries, please call
**912-9008 to 11**

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### MISCELLANEOUS

FABRIC SOFTENER P55/Lit
A1 Quality •(0917)8146234•

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MISCELLANEOUS

**RUSHI Dental Clinic Equipments & Rights** with existing pxs. at low price furnished • Call 821-0516

### MALE

A/C Tech/Helper 4287736

### FEMALE

BEAUTICIAN •8432596•

Looking for PERMANENT Job?
No Experience Needed
Earn while you train
We are hiring 20
High School Grads
To train as BEAUTICIANS & MANICURISTS
-Female, Bet. 21-35 yrs old
HAIRDRESSERS
-Female, 21-27 yrs old
PART TIME CASHIERS
-Female, 21-35 yrs old
For Mall assignment
Applicants must have Pleasing personality and Enjoy dealing w/ people
M Mla applicants
1109 Teklite West Tower
PSE Bldg., Ortigas, Pasig
-632-1210 / 632-1212
Cavite applicants
-(046) 417-3986
Laguna applicants
-(049) 411-5148

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8958112

PHARMACIST, SOCIAL WORKER, LAB AIDE 6454198

**SECRETARY**
Female Needed 22 to 25 yrs. old highly computer literate good in excel & Internet Apply on June 21, & 22. at 12-B Mariposa Street Cubao Q.C. or Call 410-6342

Wnted LAVANDERA 9266372

### MALE/FEMALE

Urgent Ofc Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp 9134470 ANTON

*Ofc Staff 18-45y/o w/w/oexp Start asap 9134470 Roma

BUILDING MANAGER*HIGHLY MOTIVATED*3YRS.EXP.MIN. SAN JUAN AREA 721-5546

COMPUTER ARTIST
Creative/hardworking Experience/Resume
405 UN Ave Roxas Blvd

FREE CARE GIVER SEMINAR
561-49-90 5638009

# MANAGER:
## Creative Design Dept

Responsibilities:
- project mgmt & supervision of designers
- set direction for new development
- convert creation into models & mass production

Requirement:
- degree in advertising or interior designs or related field
- 8 years in creative design
- familiar with silk flowers creation & production desirable
- possess marketing, interpersonal & organizational skills
- work experience in USA or Europe a PLUS
- fluent verbal & written English
- willing to travel extensively abroad

Remuneration:
- attractive International standards package
- accomodation and food provided
- annual holiday
- exposure to world scale business

PLS SEND RESUMÉ, ACHIEVEMENTS & REFERENCE TO:
Suite 404 Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Makati and also e-mail to:
(elainhui60@hotmail.com) and
(davidkbchua@hotmail.com)

# WANTED
A chemicals manufacturing company is in need of

## FEMALE SALES REPRESENTATIVES

possessing the following qualifications:
- ✓ Single, 18 to 25 years old
- ✓ With pleasing personality
- ✓ Proficient in both Oral and Written communications
- ✓ At least Second Year College level
- ✓ Hardworking and trustworthy
- ✓ Knows how to drive

Apply in person at:

#5-A Eddie Boy Compound
Emilia Street, Brgy. San Isidro
Sucat, Parañaque City
Telephone No. 820-2028

Bring your resumé.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

HAIRDRESSER
MANICURIST
RECEPTIONIST
(Physical Therapist)
CALL 895-6031 Loc 2011

• INTERNATIONAL COOK •
Exp Walter Hopia Maker
Tel 872-2129/874-8609

Lic. Xray Tech 7220568

MEDTECH NRSE LICENSED BAGBAGUIN FAMILY HOSP 849 GEN LUIS BAGBAGUIN CALOOCAN CITY T9835353

Ofc Personnel 18/45 w/ w/o exp Start ASAP 9134470 Ruiz

Ofc Staff 09163870072 Porsh

Ofc Staff 18-35y/o w/w/o exp 9121488 DAVE Urgent

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. Tan

Urgent Ofc Staff 18-45yo w/w/o exp 0917-5033825 9134470 Ms. Powers/Ms. Vi

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

URGENTLY NEEDED
Accounting Clerks
Bookkeepers
Sales Representatives
Telemarketers
Messenger/Janitor
Bring bio-data w/pic, police /NBI Brgy Clearance Apply from 10am-5pm at Room 3301 33rd flr Atlanta Ctr, 31 Annapolis St, Greenhills SJ

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #233 Buendia Shoping Plaza, Makati City will hold an AUCTION SALE • on June 29, 2002 • at 9:00 A.M. including all items pawned up to January 2002 V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**
**G6-2002-006**

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

| SCHEDULE | ITEM/DESCRIPTION | PR NUMBER |
|---|---|---|
| | DATE OF BIDDING : JULY 05, 2002; 2:00 PM | |
| A1 | 1 LOT JO SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE FABRICATION, INSTALLATION AND TESTING OF THE FF: 1. 2 PCS. HOT WELL PUMP SUCTION PIPES O.D.: 1,523MM, THICKNESS: 3/8" SUS 304 2. 1 PC. HOT WELL PUMP REDUCER, SUS 304 THICKNESS: 3/8" INCLUDING 2 PCS. FLANGES | 3MAK-02-0330 |

NOTE: Interested bidders should conduct site inspection at Mak-Ban GPP prior to a pre-bidding conference to be held on July 02, 2002, 10:00 am at SLRC Bidding Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P50.00 starting June 25, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of "Executive Order 262 and 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) N. S. GOMEZ
Chairman-PBAC

(PDI--June 22 & 29, 2002)

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dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

BUREAU OF
TRADE REGULATION AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

**NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS**

Pursuant to Section 12(A) of Department Administrative Order No. 15 Series of 1990, the Department of Trade and Industry through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection, cancels from the record all Business Name Registrations which expired as of **December 31, 2001 effective July 1, 2002.**

Under the Business Name Law (Act No. 3883), as amended, owners or proprietors should renew their Business Name Registration upon expiration thereof.

This announcement serves as a formal notice to all concerned.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) JESUS L. MOTOOMULL
Caretaker, BTRCP

(PDI -- June 22, 2002)

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

**NOTICE OF DISPOSITION**

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following commercial properties on an ***"As is - Where is"*** basis:

| ITEM NO. | DESCRIPTION | LOCATION | BASE PRICE/ SQ. METER | TERMS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. | **SECOND TENDER** | | | |
| 001-004 | 4 lots, 1,050 to 5,099 sqm. With TCTs | Pleasant Hills Subd. San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan | PhP10,000.00 | Cash |
| 005-013 | 9 lots, 132.55 to 300.77 sqm. With TCTs | Phase I-B, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig | 15,000.00 to 15,500.00 | Cash |
| 014-025 | 12 lots, 240 to 978 sqm. With TCTs | Towervile Resettlement Project, Brgy. Santo Cristo, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan | 3,000.00 to 3,250.00 | Cash |
| II. | **FIRST TENDER** | | | |
| 26-27 | 2 lots, 812 & 813 sqm. For individual titling | Phase II-B, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig | 10,000.00 | Installment; Maximum of 10 years |
| 28 | 1 lot, 1,000 sqm. With TCT | Lot 11, Blk. C2-IN, GMA Cavite | 4,000.00 | Cash |

Interested parties may purchase one/any or all the lots offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial & Industrial Bids and Awards Committee (COINBAC), c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Elliptical Road, Q.C. For inquiry, please call Evelyn V. Ramos or Neri A. Subido at the ff. tel. nos.: **922-3001, 923-0390, 928-4561** loc. **302-303.**

**SCHEDULE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A. | Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements | **June 24** to **July 5, 2002** until 5:00 p.m., CIED Mezzanine Flr. NHA Building, Q.C. |
| B. | Pre-Bid Conference | **July 1, 2002** (Monday) 2:30 p.m. Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Bldg. |
| C. | Submission of Sealed Bids | **July 8, 2002** (Monday) up to 12 noon, Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Bldg. |
| D. | Opening of Bids | **July 8, 2002** (Monday) 1:30 p.m., Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Bldg. |

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
*Assistant General Manager & Chairman, COINBAC*

(PDI - June 22 & 29, 2002)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Adultwear consign 3738821

CELFON HOLDER 4 CAR Mini-chair w/seatbelt w'sale iraya36yahoo.com

Earn 15%/mo. Interest with PDC and Contract 09174292548 - 8260028

•Travel N Earn From Home• earn-and-travel.com 8531008 (0917)8901851

Bazaar/Mall/Exhibit Spaces 633-9662 / 638-9608

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
Needs People To Train
• Tel # 525-0234 •

ITALIAN & DIMSUM FAST FOOD REST.
-East Ave. corner V.Luna St., QC 927-4381 / 0917-3209101

Supervisors P/F Time 8376065

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

REQUIRE ANYTHING?
CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS, EQUIPMENT,PRECIOUS ITEMS ETC..
FROM SINGAPORE, BANGKOK AND MALAYSIA
PLS CALL 83478201
0917)2533283 E-MAIL ADD:
vinci_ivy@yahoo.com
laracroft922@hotmail.com

Travel Now Ask Me How
• 0917-8371152 •

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the heirs of the late **VIVENCIO T. VIVAS** executed an extrajudicial settlement of Lot 2-P-2 under TCT No. 29584, Batangas, per Doc. No. 102; Page No. 21; Book No. XIX; Series of 2002 of Notary Public Emiliano N. Bulmi, of Calatagan, Batangas.
(PDI-June 22, 29 & July 6, 2002)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF LOSS

That Equitable PCI Bank Stock Certificate No. 515-11shrs; 2683-100shrs 11460-53shrs; 12536-12 shrs; 15790-10 shrs; 17038-43 shrs; 2570-5 shrs; 8069-50shrs; 11461-24 shrs; 12537-5 shrs; 17039-19 shrs; 2571-5 shrs; 8070-50 shrs; 11462-24 shrs; 12538-5 shrs; 17040-19 shrs under the name of Rodolfo Granados was lost. If uncontested new cert. will be issued.
(PDI-June 22,24&July 5,2002)

### PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen

---

INQUIRER
# RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

## Sign of silence

**Q.** Why do we place just the index finger in front of the mouth to mean that we seek silence? Why not cover the entire mouth with all five fingers?

**A.** Although it has long been the universally accepted gesture to invite silence, the sign is actually based on an early misinterpretation. The gesture dates to the ancient Egyptians' worship of the child-god Horus, son of the goddess Isis. Traditionally, he was depicted as an infant who, very humanly, was sucking his finger. The Greeks did not recognize the portrayal for what it was, but mistook the simple childish habit as a divine indication of silence. Subsequently, their error, undetected, was adopted throughout Europe, later on to be rationalized as a symbolic sealing of one's lips.

**For the Record.** The high-five gesture was first seen in basketball, originated by the University of Louisville team in the 1979-1980 US NCAA season. To celebrate an outstanding performance, the players (two at a time) would slap their right hands together high over their heads. One of them, Derek Smith, is credited with having coined the term. Soon thereafter, it became widely used in baseball, especially to welcome a player to the plate after a home run, and eventually in most other sports.

**Classified Odd.** While touring Germany with the famous Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, legendary American markswoman Annie Oakley was challenged by Crown Prince William to shoot off the end of the cigarette held between his lips. Not wanting to shoot too close to the royal face, Annie obliged by just shooting away the ash, leaving the cigarette still alight. She did this from a standing position at a distance of 100 feet.

### WORD WATCH

**Labi** : Tagalog corruption of the Spanish *labio*, 'lip.'

PDI – June 22, 2002

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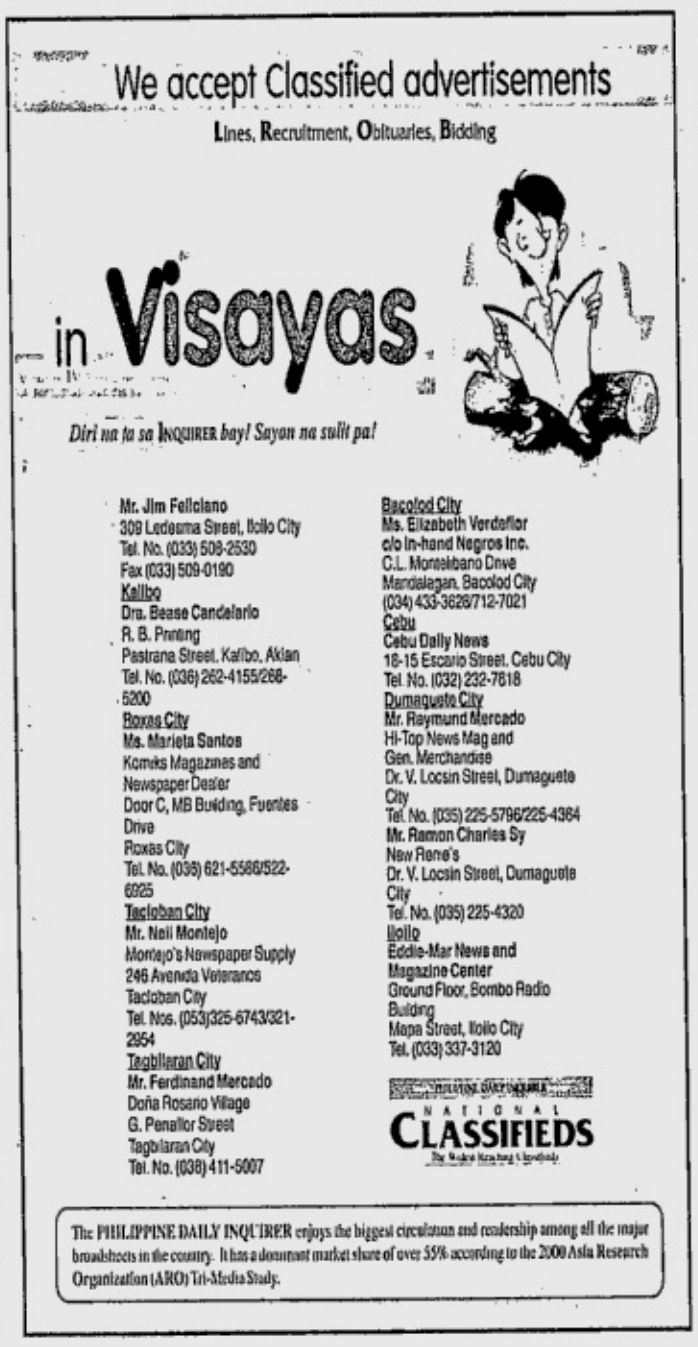
The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

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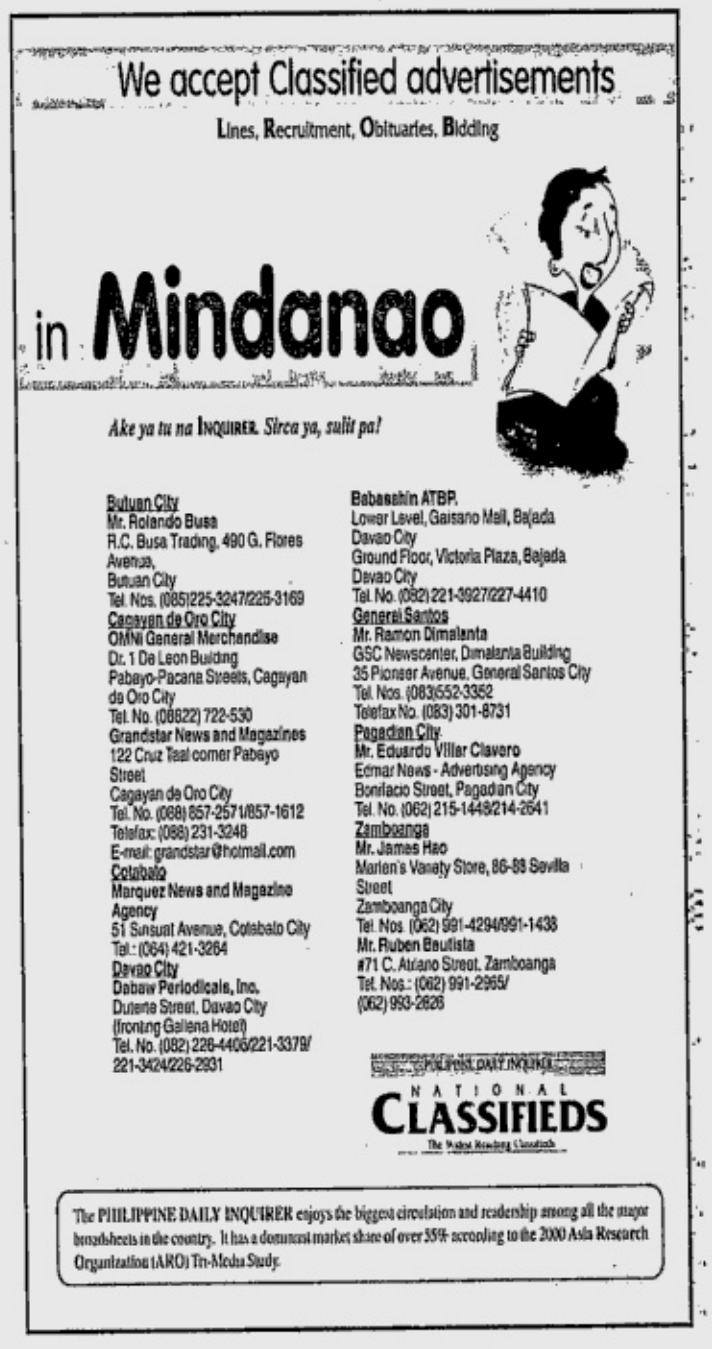



The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

# Mitsui sells 7.69% stake in ATI, to focus on other int'l businesses

By Doris C. Dumlao

JAPANESE trading firm Mitsui and Co. Ltd. has sold its 7.69-percent stake in Asian Terminals Inc. to Australian maritime service firm P&O Ports to focus on its other international infrastructure businesses.

In a disclosure yesterday to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ATI said P&O's purchase was in line with the global port operator's commitment to transfer technology to ATI, a ports and logistics company operating in four major international seaports in the Philippines.

This transaction has increased P&O's stake in ATI to 13.3 percent, making it the single biggest foreign stockholder in ATI, which is controlled by a local consortium led by Eusebio Tanco.

Based on ATI's total outstanding shares of 2 billion, the additional stake acquired by P&O was equivalent to 153.8 million shares.

Based on ATI's closing price of P1.20 yesterday, the additional stake was worth about P185.4 million.

The disclosure said Mitsui's strategy was to expand its international businesses in other areas like railway projects, communications technology and industrial machinery.

It said Mitsui was embarking on new projects in the region, such as the Taiwan high-speed train project and the electrified double track project in Malaysia.

As a result of the sale of shares, ATI has announced the resignation from its board of Mitsui representative Genya Iwasaki.

For its part, P&O is a leading global port operator, with 21 container terminals in 19 countries and has operations in a total of 84 ports.

As of June 21 this year, the other significant stockholders of ATI are ATI Holdings, 13.56 percent; Pecard Group Holdings, 9.91 percent; Philippine Seaport Inc., 9.85 percent; Daven Holdings Inc., 7.8 percent; SG Holdings, 6.5 percent; Kayak Holdings, 5.6 percent; Morray Holdings Inc., 5 percent; Ansaldo Godinez & Co., 4.99 percent; Harbourside Holding, 4 percent; Aberlour Holding Co., 3.58 percent; All Asia Capital Growth Ventures, 2.95 percent; and, Agatha Builders Corp., 1.04 percent.

# Megaworld earmarks ₱2.5B to pursue new plans

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. is spending some P2.5 billion this year to pursue new projects and complete existing ones in anticipation of a rebound in the property sector late this year.

Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan yesterday told reporters that part of Megaworld's capital expenditures this year—higher than last year's P2 billion—would go to the recently launched Forbeswood Heights upscale residential project at the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Metro Manila.

The Forbeswood project is the opening salvo of Megaworld's P15-billion, mixed-use Forbes Town Center project with businessman Charlie Rufino's Bonifacio West Development. This joint venture is putting up 16 residential towers in addition to a retail center on a 5-hectare property it has acquired from Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

Tan also said Megaworld would continue to spend on the 30-story Cyber One office tower in its flagship Eastwood City complex targeted for completion in the third quarter.

The first three levels of its podium will house Cybermall, which will feature electronic gadgets, computer hardware and software, mobile phones, and Internet cafés and network gaming arcades.

Also included in this year's capital expenditures is the P400-million expansion of the City Walk retail and restaurant hub in Eastwood, he said.

"City Walk 2 will host new restaurants and bars, a bowling alley and multilevel parking in a 10,000-square-meter area," Tan said.

Tan reported that City Walk boomed in the second half of 2001 as a premier dining and entertainment destination, with over 30 establishments now in operation.

In its stockholders' meeting, Megaworld announced that it intended to pursue some new borrowings for the expansion of its subsidiaries.

Apart from a $25-million loan secured from International Finance Corp. for subsidiary Eastwood Cyber One Corp., which was guaranteed by Megaworld, the company was likewise negotiating to obtain another P100 million from the Development Bank of the Philippines for the same unit.

# SEC junks petition to dissolve CBCP Internet firm

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has junked the petition of minority shareholders of CBCPNet Corp. seeking to assign a management committee that will see the orderly dissolution of the Internet company.

Minority shareholders of CBCPNet, mostly clergymen belonging to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, filed last month a petition asking the SEC to dissolve CBCPNet.

They have accused majority stockholders of running the company to the ground.

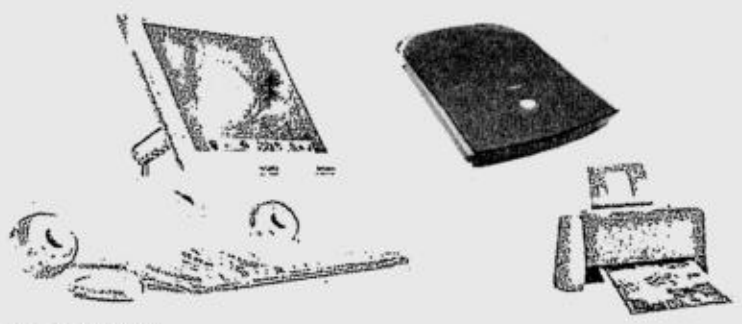
In the complaint, CBCP representatives alleged that through CBCPNet, couple Eman Lim and Mardie Lim, the Internet service provider's majority shareholders and managers, amassed an estimated P177 million in debts while collecting significant revenue from their subscribers.

The Lims have absconded and abandoned the company, leading creditors to threaten CBCP with action for the non-payment of CBCPNet's debts.

In a decision on Thursday, the SEC said CBCP's complaint or petition did not clearly show that there were other relevant matters that would place the case under the corporate watchdog's jurisdiction since, usually, intra-corporate cases should be handled by the regular courts.

Also, despite being given ample time, the complainants did not provide a clear listing or record of the actual assets and liabilities of the company and other pertinent facts that would tend to show the matter was prejudicial to minority shareholders or the public at large, the commission said.


# Apple Promo Specials!



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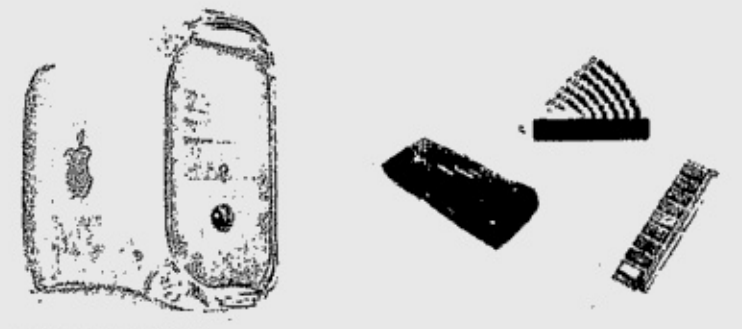

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## Disclosures

**A BROWN Co. Inc.** has bought 10,000 treasury shares at 44 centavos each on June 19.

• • •

THE FOLLOWING were elected directors of **Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc.**: Teo Soon Hoe, Hoe Eng Hock, Henry Sy Sr., Ramon Abejuela, Fidel Bugayong, Toh Ko Lin, Charles Yap Giok Twee, Ma. Melva Valdez and Edgardo Abesamis.

• • •

ELECTED to the board of **Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.** were Charles Foo Chee Lee, Toh Ko Lin, Hoe Eng Hock, Henry Sy Sr., Cesar Tapia, Ramon Abejuela, Charles Yap Giok Twee, Teo Soon Hoe and Ishmael Limkakeng Jr.

• • •

**MULTITECH Investments Corp.** has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting this month, tentatively rescheduling it to Sept. 30.

• • •

**ANGLO Philippine Holdings Corp.** said the record date for its annual stockholders' meeting on July 26 has been moved from June 24 to May 27. It will be held at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong at 3 p.m.

• • •

ELECTED officers of **Megaworld Corp.** were Andrew Tan, chair and president; George Yang, vice chair; Cirilo Manlangit, SVP for corporate management; and Kingson Sian, SVP.

• • •

**PILIPINO Telephone Corp.** has confirmed that the following are its independent directors: Benito Chiongbian, Victor Chiongbian, Edward Go and Mallton Salazar. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, June 21, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Banks & Financial Services** | | | | | |
| **Banks** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 19.75 | 19.75 | 19.5 | 19.75 | 548,500 |
| Banco Filipino Sav & Mort | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 50.5 | 50.5 | 50 | 50.5 | 1,247,600 |
| China Banking Corp. | 630 | 630 | 630 | 630 | 6,200 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 35.5 | 35.5 | 35 | 35.5 | 58,300 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 87,000 |
| Global Business Bank Inc. | 74.5 | 74.5 | 70 | 70 | 200 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 36 | 36.5 | 35 | 35 | 274,800 |
| Philippine National Bank | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 6,600 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 900 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 13.75 | 14 | 13.75 | 14 | 29,100 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 1,000 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1105 | 1115 | 1100 | 1115 | 41,620 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 1,900 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.74 | 0.8 | 0.74 | 0.77 | 9,400,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 610 | 630 | 610 | 610 | 7,970 |
| Piltel | 0.37 | 0.39 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 980,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 387.5 | 397.5 | 387.5 | 397.5 | 95,810 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.014 | 0.015 | 30,700,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 21.75 | 22 | 21.75 | 22 | 27,100 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 33 | 34.5 | 33 | 34.5 | 1,516,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.68 | 1.7 | 3,336,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 163,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 65,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.36 | 2.36 | 100,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 10,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Phil Nat'l Const. Corp. | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 34,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 6,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 162,800 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 114,400 |
| RFM Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 40,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 48 | 48 | 47.5 | 48 | 63,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 56.5 | 56.5 | 55 | 55.5 | 116,300 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 5 | 5.2 | 5 | 5.2 | 1,360,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.32 | 2.32 | 2.32 | 2.32 | 53,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 91,000 |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 10,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 6,140,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 920,000 |
| Ebecom Holdings Inc. | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 155,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs. Corp. | 22 | 22.25 | 22 | 22.25 | 46,800 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 100,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 3,030,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 50,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.74 | 0.75 | 6,310,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.41 | 0.49 | 0.4 | 0.49 | 60,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 6,410,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 590,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 10,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 22,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 150,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 100,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25 | 25 | 202,000 |
| Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr) | 750 | 750 | 750 | 750 | 130 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series S | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 500 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,500 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 7,600,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 110,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 350,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.24 | 0.245 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 490,000 |
| Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.38 | 2.42 | 6,188,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 10,000 |
| City & Land Developers | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 190,000 |
| Sm Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 2,944,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 1,500,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 1,010,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't Corp. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 5,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 200,000 |
| Oil | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 4,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 2,000,000 |
| South China Resources Inc | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 100,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 2,305,920 | 137,563,795.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 72,753,410 | 154,139,315.00 |
| PRO | 17,897,000 | 73,407,240.00 |
| Mining | 7,710,000 | 392,050.00 |
| OIL | 6,100,000 | 59,600.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 106,766,330 | 365,562,000.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 491.10 | UP 0.29 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,697.81 | UP 0.46 |
| PRO | 506.21 | DOWN 8.45 |
| Mining | 1,272.95 | UP 0.98 |
| OIL | 1.36 | UP 0.06 |
| All Shares Index | 721.18 | UP 1.34 |
| Composite | 1,214.15 | DOWN 3.13 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 78; NO. OF TRADES: 1,694

## Currencies

| June 21, 2002 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.034875 | 1.000000 | 50.2050 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008393 | 0.008110 | 0.4072 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.552002 | 1.499700 | 75.2924 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.132678 | 0.128207 | 6.4366 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.680079 | 0.657160 | 32.9927 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.677496 | 0.654664 | 32.8674 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.582045 | 0.562430 | 28.2368 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.591019 | 0.571102 | 28.6722 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.745173 | 2.652661 | 133.1768 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.275944 | 0.266645 | 13.3869 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.580412 | 0.560852 | 28.1576 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000121 | 0.000117 | 0.0059 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024623 | 0.023793 | 1.1945 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.281775 | 0.272279 | 13.6698 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000856 | 0.000827 | 0.0415 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.966300 | 48.5131 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.289072 | 0.279330 | 14.0238 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.375499 | 0.376285 | 18.8914 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134574 | 0.130039 | 6.5286 |
| India | Rupee | 0.021189 | 0.020475 | 1.0279 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.272372 | 0.263193 | 13.2136 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.104427 | 0.100908 | 5.0661 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.507915 | 0.490798 | 24.6405 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.135544 | 0.130976 | 6.5757 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017276 | 0.016694 | 0.8381 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.099989 | 0.096619 | 4.8508 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.110448 | 0.106726 | 5.3582 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.020133 | 0.019455 | 0.9767 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.030663 | 0.029630 | 1.4876 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000796 | 0.000769 | 0.0386 |

# Stocks . . .

From page B1

developer SM Prime Holdings Inc. lost 1.82 percent, or 10 centavos, at P5.40.

News of the possible death of key Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya after the Muslim rebel group encountered military troops off the coast of southern Zamboanga peninsula failed to elicit excitement or buying interest.

The local market has lost nearly 20 percent from its high this year, signaling that it was approaching bearish levels, Araullo said.

The market lost 4.08 percent, or 51.6 points, for the week. Its gains so far this year had been trimmed to 3.94 percent on Friday from a high of about 24 percent in February.

Turnover on Friday climbed slightly to P365.72 million from Thursday's P316.95 million. Losers were in near equilibrium with gainers, 23 to 24, with 31 issues unchanged.

Traders said there could be a technical rebound early next week as shares have dropped to oversold levels but the market would generally be rangebound with a downward bias.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. gained P12.50, or 3.25 percent, to P397.50. PLDT officials met with officials of Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. on Thursday reportedly to seek support from the Japanese firm to block a possible takeover bid by the Gokongwei group of JG Summit Holdings Inc. ***Reuters***

# Japan's economy struggles to hit W. Cup goal

TOKYO—Flat-screen TV sales soared. Home pizza deliveries doubled. And when extra tickets for a World Cup soccer game went on sale, 2 million callers jammed the nation's mobile phone network.

Japan's co-hosting of the world's premier sporting event has been seen boosting an economy slowly emerging from a 10-year downturn, with some predicting it will add growth of at least 0.3 percentage point this year.

But with enthusiasm cooling after the Japanese team's elimination, the net effect could be as flat as a goal-less draw.

"Even if the World Cup did have any positive impact, I don't think it will have a meaningful effect on the overall economy," said Tomoko Fujii, an economist at Nikko Salomon Smith Barney.

"It might push GDP (gross domestic product) up by 0.1 percentage point, but even if it did, there will certainly be a reaction to that," she added.

Already, travel firms and department stores are complaining of lower revenues due to stay-at-home fans.

One of the bright spots, though, has been electronics makers and retailers, after consumers rushed to buy new audiovisual goods.

"Sales of expensive items such as plasma (displays) and flat-screen TVs have been rising recently, but the World Cup has definitely given a boost," said Koichi Kagi of electronics retailer Edion Corp.

Sales of DVD players surged 187 percent in May compared with the same month the previous year, he said.

In Tokyo's Akihabara, a mecca for electronics goods, business has been booming. Cut-price electronics retailer Laox Co. Ltd., based in Akihabara, said sales of TV sets rose 43.4 percent in May in the run-up to the tournament, while DVDs jumped 87.7 percent.

Higa Industries, which runs the Japanese operation of Domino's Pizza, is another company that has benefited from the world's biggest sporting event, but it has come with careful planning and lessons learned at the previous tournament four years ago. ***Reuters***

## Indonesia to import 250,000 tons of rice

JAKARTA—Indonesia plans to import 250,000 tons of rice from China to secure supplies in case of harvest failure created by the El Niño weather phenomenon, a report said Friday.

Wijanarko Puspoyo, head of the state food agency Bulog, was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying a memorandum of understanding was expected to be signed next month for delivery in November.

He said a preliminary agreement was reached during President Megawati Sukarnoputri's visit to China this year.

It had not yet been decided whether Indonesia would pay in cash or counter-trade.

"China is basically okay with a counter-trade scheme, and they have asked for crude palmoil in return for their rice. But this can be changed," Puspoyo was quoted as saying.

An agriculture ministry said last month that the country's rice imports this year would not exceed 1.3 million tons, even if El Niño, which could create droughts, returned.

The official said indications from the national meteorological agency showed there was a strong chance El Niño would not occur this year.

Indonesia reached self-sufficiency in rice in 1984 under former strongman Suharto. It resumed imports a decade later as more and more farmland was lost to development. ***AFP***

## *Japan trying to deal with 'China envy'*

TOKYO—When retired engineer Shinji Seto sees pictures of industrious Chinese workers on a factory assembly line, it reminds him of the optimistic Japan of 40 years ago.

"China looks exactly like Japan after the war, when people worked hard and living standards improved every day," says Seto, whiling away the time in a Tokyo coffee shop.

"My son won't believe me, but China might soon become richer than Japan," he says, reflecting a view shared by many Japanese, who have seen little economic growth in a decade.

A worried government, which mostly kept to the sidelines as iconic companies like Sony Corp. developed world-beating technologies, is now seeking ways to spur a new wave of hi-tech that it hopes will help Japan overcome its "China envy."

Although ideas are still in the works, lawmakers are eyeing steps, including tax breaks on cutting-edge research in environmental technology, nanotechnology and biotechnology, as well as asking some foreign professionals to work in Japan.

With China's abundant, cheap and increasingly well-trained labor, analysts say Japan has little hope of success if it tries only to guard what it already has.

Yoshimochi Kuwata, a research fellow at private think tank Fuji Research Institute, said the only solution for Japan was to "give up in some areas and say, 'Okay, the Chinese can make bicycles for cheaper prices.'"

Moreover, Japanese firms have been rushing to shift production to China, fueling angst about a hollowing-out of Japan's industrial base and a huge loss of manufacturing jobs.

The exodus has spread to equipment such as digital cameras, Japan's biggest consumer electronics product last year, with tech conglomerate NEC Corp. planning to have 70 percent of its digital camera production in China by March.

"But the Chinese can't yet create things like fuel cell vehicles, 'hybrid' cars or develop things like nanotechnology. These are things Japan can make and make well. Japan must try harder in these areas," Kuwata said.

Fuel cell vehicles, which use hydrogen to create electricity and emit only water, may one day replace ordinary cars. "Hybrid" vehicles combining a battery-powered motor with a gasoline engine are expected to fill the gap before fuel cell vehicles come into their own.

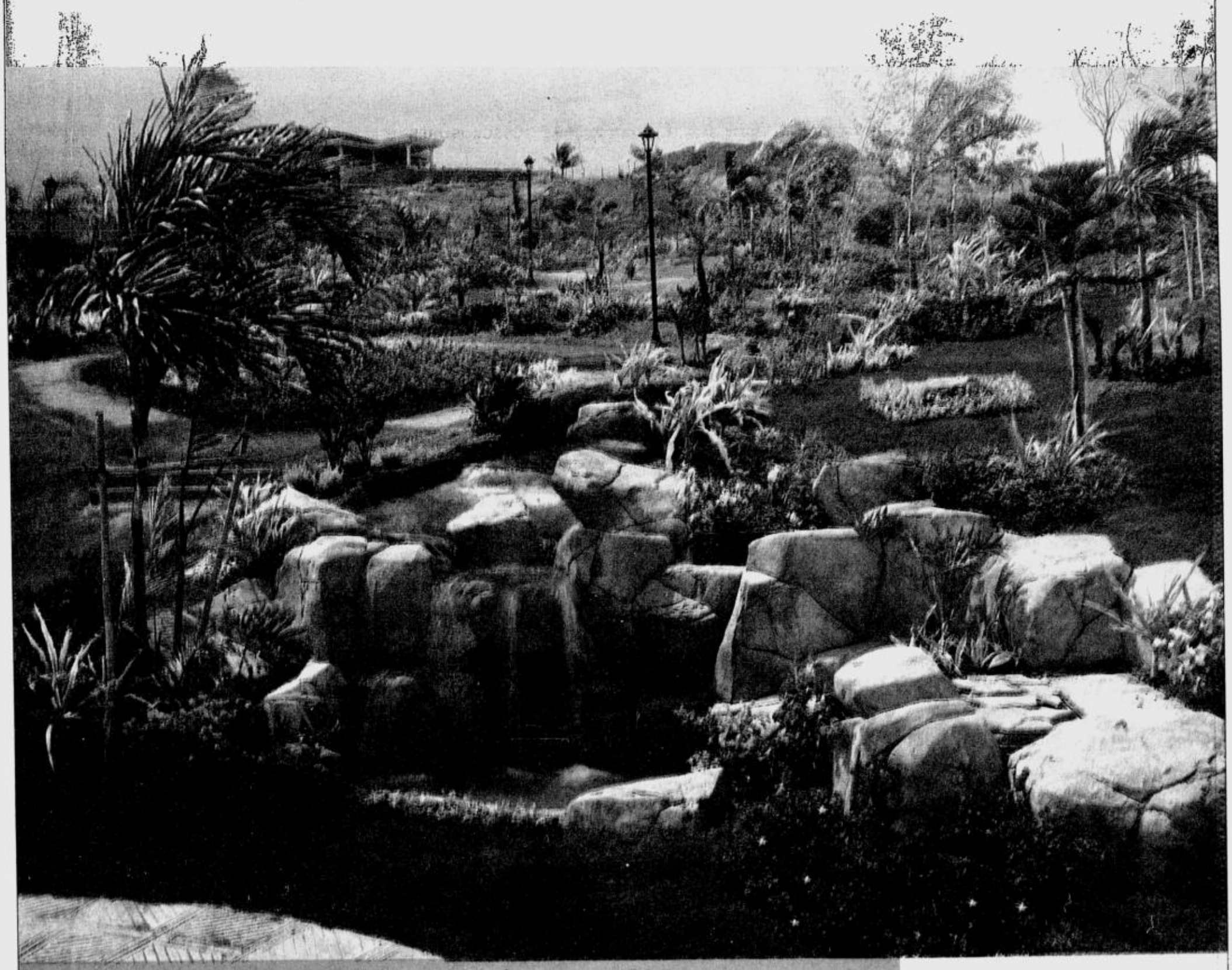
Authorities already grant moderate tax breaks for buyers of some environment-friendly cars, but more generous tax incentives for hybrid car owners might help boost sales and encourage more automakers to invest in the area.

The government has recently declared industries such as environmental technology, nanotechnology and biotechnology as key pillars of economic growth in the new century by promising tax incentives to spur research in these fields.

Nanotechnology, or engineering on a molecular level, is also considered the "next big thing" that could revolutionize the fields of semiconductors, life sciences and optical networking. ***Reuters***


*Gardens at the foothills of Mt. Makiling, designed by Sanders.*

*The Ayala Greenfield Estates View Corridor.*



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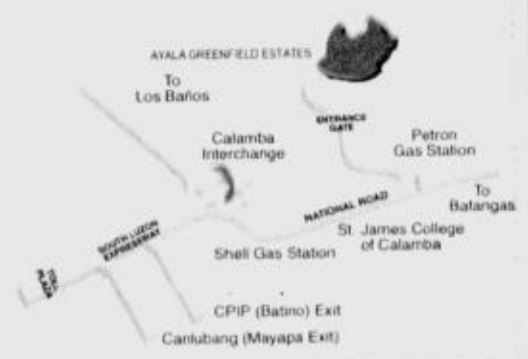
Covering five hundred meters of downhill slope, the Ayala Greenfield Estates view corridor stretches across two hectares of gardens, water cascades and trails. From here one can take in the views of Mt. Makiling and Laguna, as well as the completed amenities of the village clubhouse – a social hall, a game room with video games and billiards, gym, massage rooms, steam rooms and a coffee shop – along with the infinity pool, the multi-purpose rink, and the toddler's play area. Visit the site today and experience the completed village clubhouse, lagoon and multi-purpose playing field.

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# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
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# D-Link adopts aggressive marketing

D-Link International, a Singapore-based company, has revealed plans to do more aggressive marketing of products in the country.

D-Link is into the development and manufacture of networking, data and voice communications products for small and medium-size business from the small office to the big-ticket companies.

According to Peter Lim, D-Link International's marketing director, the company's investment in the Philippines may be small, but the company's projection of income flowback to the local economy is positive.

"I must admit that our investment in the Philippines is quite small compared to other companies that have established a foothold here. But in due time, with our projected strategy, we will make our presence felt."

He said the company is eyeing a $500,000 investment in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"Quite frankly, the bulk of the investment goes to Thailand and the Philippines. But I would like to give emphasis to the Philippine market, considering the low number of competitors here. We are pretty excited with our prospects here."

According to an IDC report released last year, D-Link was ranked No. 1 in the country in the fixed port Fast Ethernet switches category in the third quarter of 2001. It came in at No. 2 in the combined Ethernet and Fast Ethernet NIC category for the final two quarters of last year.

Lim said they are happy with the results of the IDC report, which showed that they are on the right track in terms of the company's market strategy.

"What we really wanted was to cut a small portion in the market share of our major rivals here in the Philippines (3Com and Cisco), and the encouraging results drive us to push even harder," he stressed.

He pointed out that D-Link's accomplishment in the Philippine market is its successful branding. He added the company's network of distributors also reaped the rewards by means of increased revenues.

D-Link's success, according to Lim, may be attributed to several factors and that includes the company's "unusual" perspective toward the market.

"Compared to other enterprises that look at a certain market from a quarterly perspective, which is the traditional way, we at D-Link try to groom the market from a year-long perspective. That way, we can view the market in a much-longer time frame, see how it will perform, so we can plot out strategies carefully."

Lim said D-Link persisted in the country despite the prevailing market conditions.

As part of the company's strategy, Lim said the company would also invest on advertising, through brand education, to make consumer aware of D-Link products.

The company intends to pursue a "pull" strategy in the next four months through substantial advertising, various educational programs where the company will enlighten consumers on the "networking" topic. The company also intends to come out with a right pricing structure of products.

"D-Link commits itself toward providing information about the company. We believe that the foundation for consumer education should be a solid one and we are laying that foundation."

**'OUTDOOR QUEST' WINNERS**

Del Monte 202, together with Campaigns and Grey and 'Game Plan', recently held its first race event dubbed 'The Great Outdoor Quest'. The event sought to strengthen the position of Del Monte 202 among the young with fit and active lifestyles. Shown are Del Monte Philippines president Alex Castillo and VP for marketing Willie Samson with 1st placer Frederic Ocampo, Shelli Manuel and Rovilson Fernandez.

**ALLERIN VOTED AS MOST OUTSTANDING COUGH SYRUP BRAND**

Allerin was recently voted as the Most Outstanding Cough Syrup brand in the country. The award was conferred by the National Consumers Affairs Council after a thorough research and consumer survey. A product of United Laboratories, Inc. (Unilab), Allerin has been in the market since the 1970s. With the combined strength of an antitussive and a nasal decongestant, Allerin has effectively been providing relief from general cough to thousands of Filipino consumers across all ages. This is probably why smart Moms never run of Allerin stock at home. As they say, "Ang nanay na laging handa, laging may Allerin." The recent award bestowed upon the mildly mentholated syrup brand is just proof of the Filipino consumers' trust in the product. "More than ever, we are inspired to stand by our commitment of providing the best cough medicine to Filipinos," says Noc Ypil, product officer of Allerin. "*Ginhawa sa lalamunan, tigil ang ubo.* That's our vow to the end," Ypil concludes.

**GDAP, FMI INT'L GOLF SHOW**

The Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) recently appointed Fairs & More Inc. (FMI) to manage the 7th Philippine International Golf Show scheduled from Oct. 4 to 6 at the Megatrade Hall 2. With the theme 'Where Golf and Tourism in Asia Converge', a golf tournament will also be held on Sept. 26. Shown at the contract signing are GDAP officers (seated, from left) vice president Edwin Erni, president Raymund Atendido, FMI president Henry J. Schumacher, and treasurer Allan Brian Hain. Standing, from left, are FMI director Elaine Garcia-Gatchalian, Randy Rana, auditor Karina AT Herrera and Tricia Biglete. Further details on the show and tournament can be obtained from Fairs & More at 845-1324 or 759-6680.

## *IIEE mid-year confab*

The Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (IIEE) will hold its 2002 Mid-Year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum on June 27-29, at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

The forum's theme is "Transforming IIEE to Meet the Challenges of Globalization and IT."

Among the ctivities planned for the event are pre-convention sportsfest (bowling and golf), simultaneous technical sessions and product presentations, electrical industry exhibition, plenary forum discussions, book launch of the 2000 edition Philippine Electrical Code Part 1 (available at discounted price), fellowship presentation and raffle draws.

Victor L. Magdaraog, incoming president of the Philippine Computer Society, and Hon. Ben-Hur C. Salcedo, undersecretary of the Dept. of Energy, are the guest speakers in the opening ceremonies and closing ceremonies respectively.

Registration is ongoing at the IIEE National Office at 41 Monte de Piedad St., Cubao, Q.C. For more information, please call tel. nos. 414-5626, 727-3552, 727-3558 and 722-7383.

## California Raisins Galore in Snack N' Win 2002

Snacking with delectable bonnets and yummy browniés loaded with California Raisins is now more than a gastronomical treat, it is also a chance to win exciting prices. Lovers of California Raisin Bonnets and Brownies just need to send in their name, address, contact number, signature and the name of the bakery indicated on each wrapper of California Raisin Bonnet and Brownie in an envelope to the Filipino-Chinese Bakery Association, Inc. at 1967 Rizal Ave. Sta. Cruz, Manila. Along with these information, contestants should attach three wrappers of either California Raisin Bonnet or Bonnet or a combination of both.

The first prize winner will get a TV Set with VCD Component, second prize is two units of Nokia 8310, third prize is three units of Nokia 8250, and 10 consolation prizes of Nokia 3310 units. Promo period is from June 8 to July 6.

California Raisin Bonnets and Brownies are delicious and at the same time is a good snack for your kids this coming school year because it is a good source of the body's daily fruit requirement. It's handy to bring for *baon*. Children enjoy a sumptuous snack and still get iron and fiber that will help with their digestion. So munch away with California Raisin Bonnets and Brownies, give your body a healthy snack and also get a chance to grab exciting prizes!

Participating bakeries are Baker's Fair, Bakerite, Bread Bin, Cherry Hill Foods Co. Inc., Julson Bakeshop, Cinco Hermanas, Duchess Bakery, Eng Kee Bakeshop, Golden Tinapay Bakeshop, Herran Bread & Foodmart, Jenny's Bakeshop, Liberty Foodmart Inc., M. Sotingco Bakery, Maypajo Bakery, New Delmonte Bakeshop, New Honeygold Bakehaus, New Roxan Bakery, Roosevelt Bakeshop, Tita K.C. Creation, Tristan-Jay Bakeshop, Uncle George Bakeshop, VC Baker, Wankee Bakeshop. Tarlac: Cindy's Tarlac, ILO-ILO: Tibiao Bakery Inc. BAGUIO: Handaan sa Baguio, DAVAO City Cherish Bakeshop, Café Rysum, D' Bread Maker, NCCC, Vangie Eatery, Rose Bakeshop, Cake Gallery, Kris Karl Bakeshop, Merco Quality Bread & Cakes, Mr. Sunshine, Linchel Bakeshop, Prongels, Gold Ribbon, Betchie Bee, J5 Bakeshop, Linfood Corp., Lilys Bakeshop, Uncle Mark, Nichols Bakeshop. BACOLOD City: Allied Bakehous,Blue Basket Bread & Pastries,Chim Bakeshop D' Bakers Cakes & Pastries,Edies Bakeshop, El Idal Bakery, Fix & Mix Baked Products, Foodman Industries, JMTL Bakeshop, Joyjess Bakeshop,Mariels Bakery, Merci Bread & Pastries, Moonstar Bakeshop, Mic John Bakeshop, New Murcia Bread house, Peter's Bakeshop, Pueblo Bakery, Reales Bakeshop, Sunny Bakeshop, the Pastry Shop of Bobs, Quan Bakeshop, Virgies Home Made Pastries.

Participating supermarkets are Mightee Mart, Ultra Mega, Aristo Mart, Home Sweet Home, S-Mart.

**MYRA 300-E'S WORLD-CLASS BEAUTY**

Katherine Ann Manalo receives her Ms Myra 300-E Inner Beauty award from Alvin So, product director for Myra 300-E, in an awarding ceremony held at the Unilab office in Mandaluyong. In the recently concluded Binibining Pilipinas 2002 pageant, Katherine was singled out and chosen as the woman who best exemplifies the Myra 300-E woman. She's healthy, sexy, beautiful, and possesses inner beauty that makes her always look in bloom. Not surprisingly, Katherine was also named Binibining Pilipinas-World 2002, proof that the Myra 300-E beauty is a world-class beauty. Katherine will be flying to London in November to compete in the Miss World 2002 pageant. Present to welcome Katherine to the awarding ceremonies are (from left) Mayni Dizon, Myra 300-E product assistant and Eva Datol, Myra 300-E product manager.

**BAYANIHAN SPIRIT LIVES IN KAINGIN**

The nationwide 'National June Build', a gawad Kalinga program of Couples for Christ (CFC) and partly funded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, went into full swing recently when it constructed 20 houses for the poor of Kaingin, located outside the walls of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Parañaque City. The weekend activity was participated in by hundreds of volunteers from various sectors and the Kaingin community itself via 'bayanihan.' Volunteers shared their skills and labor, while many benefactors donated construction materials and cash. Leaders from CFC led the televised activity that was spread across 70 GK sites nationwide wherein more than 2,000 houses were constructed. A telethon was also held over the ANC Channel of ABS-CBN. Shown are leaders of CFC and the GK program in Kaingin (from left) Eric Calanno (CFC unit leader), Roland Lamadrid (Kids for Christ coordinator), Espie Obo (community organizer), Dar Lopez (GK Tatag program manager), Nanding Obo (CFC community organizer), Homer 'Buddy' Nievera (Sibol program manager), Nestor 'Boy' Calanno (GK cluster coordinator), and Rollie Buenaventura (CFC unit leader). For donations of construction and school materials or cash, call Dar Lopez at 821-0815 or Jinky Nievera at 825-5496.

## Samsung Dream Deals promo

SAMSUNG Electronics (Philippines) Corp. has launched its "Samsung DIGITall Dream Deals" promo that allows consumers to own a Home Theater System at substantial discounts of as much as P18,900. Samsung Electronics Phils. audio-video product manager Binggoy Mauricio said that customers may choose from a combination of a Samsung HT-DL200 Home Theater System, a Samsung DVD-V8000 DVD+VHS Combo Player, or a Samsung DVD-M208K DVD with Full Karaoke Function Player to go with their purchase of a Samsung 43" ST-43T6P projection TV, or a Samsung 54" ST-54T6P projection TV. Both projection TVs feature the latest progessive scanning technology that offer sharper, clearer and more focused "flicker-free" images. The Samsung DIGITall Dream Deals promo is available in all participating dealers and outlets nationwide until June 30.

**IFCA CONSULTING PHILS. INC. – NISSAN GALLERY ORTIGAS CONTRACT SIGNING**

Nissan Gallery Ortigas, a leader in Nissan Car Dealership recently signed a contract with IFCA Consulting Phils. for their computerization projects. Shown (standing, from left) are Nelson Nelson Bataclan Jr. (MIS technical support-Nissan), Antonion Salinas Jr. (MIS senior programmer-Nissan), Ambella Tapnio (lead technical consultant-IFCA), Menchie Alba (project consultant-IFCA), Rose Rosales (TQM supervisor-Nissan), Cecille de Ocampo (finance manager – Nissan), Jon Cortez (applications consultant – IFCA) and Jaime Cinco (TQM manager – Nissan). Seated, (from left) Wenceslao C. Ong (president – Nissan Gallery Ortigas), Blenvenido C. Ebilane (project manager – IFCA Consulting Phils. Inc.) and Jose Antonio Banson (CEO – Nissan Gallery Ortigas).

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**MESSAGE OF THANKS**

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*Our Dearly Beloved Papa*

## Atty. Marvin Panlilio Goingco

*Peacefully joined His Creator on June 21, 2002 at the age of 54.*

His remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park Remedios Chapel.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 25, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, City of San Fernando.

*"Happy are those who have died in the Lord"*
*Let them rest from their labor for their good deeds go with them.*
**Rev. 14:13**

## BIENVENIDO "Ben" DEL ROSARIO SAN PEDRO

*Died on June 20, 2002 at the age of 72.*

His loving wife **ELISA**; children **ALBERTO & MINDA, ANTONIO & SUSAN, ARMANDO & ALETH, ARLENE, ABELARDO & NORA, ARTHUR & ROSANNA**; brothers & sister **SERAFIN & TITA, Father LADING; Dra. MATTIE & ROBBIE** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Turo, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment will be on 25th June, 2002 at the Bocaue Catholic Cemetery after the 10:00AM Mass at the Bocaue Catholic Church.

In Loving Memory
on the **Third Death Anniversary** of

## JOSUE D. POLINTAN

*who passed away on June 22, 1999.*

Holy Mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at the Holy Eucharist Parish Church, Moonwalk, Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish, Merville and at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori in Magallanes.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

**"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord"** 2 Corinthians 5:8

**MESSAGE OF THANKS**

We, the family of the late

**EVELYN DUNCOMBRE ELIZALDE**

*who passed away on June 12, 2002*

wish to express our sincere gratitude to all those who comforted us with their presence, sent flowers and spiritual offerings, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites and in immensurable ways were just there for us when we needed it most.

## BENJAMIN C. SANTOS

**Barangay Captain**
**Barangay Philam**
**Quezon City**

**UP CLASS 1950 - BETA SIGMA**

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 20, 2002 at the age of 73.*

Married to **Lourdes Vytiaco** (†)

His bereaved children **Malu & Tony Lareza, Joe Paul & Lolit, Gene & Cristy, Alice & Monet Alino, Carol & Antonio Laico, Aurie & Jing Elepano, Philip & Kathleen, Martin & Agie**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at the Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, June 26, 2002 at La Funeraria Paz, Inc. Crematory after the 10:00 a.m. Mass, 2:00 p.m. cremation.

## DR. SALVADOR ALTAREJOS AREVALO, JR.

(Husband of the late **ZARIFE SAIDE AREVALO**)

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 18, 2002 at the age of 73.*

His loving children **YVONNE** and **TIMMY HAMID, SALVADOR III** and **MARIVIC SIONGCO, MENCHIE** and **ARNOLD LAMPA** and **JAKE**; grandchildren **ZAKI** and **FARAH HAMID, PHOEBE** and **KHALIL AREVALO, TATIANA** and **ALEX LAMPA, NATASHA** and **MIGUEL AREVALO**, sisters **DR. VIOLETA A. FUMAR, DR. SONIA A. SANTOS, BLANCA A. AREVALO, JUDGE MONINA A. ZENAROSA, DAISY A. VIZCARRA** and **BONITA A. MEDRANO**; brothers **JUDGE JOAQUIN A. AREVALO** (†) and **DR. FRANKJU A. AREVALO**; in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at DIANA CHAPEL CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 23, 2002 at Forest Park, Novaliches, Caloocan City, after the 10:00 AM Mass.

## *Pascual A. dela Rosa*

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 10, 2002 at the age of 78, in San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*

His bereaved wife **Adorina**; children **Charito** and **Dolly**; sons-in-law **Ben Antaran & Jose Magsaysay**; grandchildren **Bernard** and wife **Kari**, **Nonie** and husband **Matthew**, **Christopher**, **Jonathan & Deborah**; great granddaughter **Nica**; brothers **Vicente** (†), **Guillermo & Restituto**; sister **Abe**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque.

Mass will be held on Sunday, June 23, 2002, 8:00 AM at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

Interment follows at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque by 11:30 AM.

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Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
**SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH**
Forbes Park, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
**SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH**
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
**ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH**
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
**ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
**ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES**
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
**VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES**
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
**WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES**
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila
Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

## Asian visions group opens eye clinic at Asian Hospital

THE ASIAN Visions Group, a special team of top-notch ophthalmologists with a variety of sub-specialties, is set to formally launch its modern clinic at the newly inaugurated Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City at 4 p.m. today. The group's mission is to provide state-of-the-art eye care and highly professional services, particularly to the residents of the south. It is a one-stop-shop where patients can avail of the most modern hospital facilities in the Philippines.

The seven members of the Asian Visions Group are distinguished medical professionals, each with a competent background of training and experience. Its founder and president is Dr. Benjamin M. Abela Jr. who is also the chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center. A graduate of the University of the Philippines, Dr. Abela took his diplomate fellowship training in glaucoma at Stanford University and at the University of Lund, Sweden where he was a Swedish Institute scholar.

Dr. Leonardo R. Mangubat, another alumnus of the University of the Philippines, is currently the vice chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Asian Hospital. He holds a diplomate and is a professor of Ophthalmology at UP-PGH, with a fellowship in Plastic-Lacrimal Surgery from the Centro Espesyal Ramon Y Cajal, Universidad de Alcala in Madrid, Spain. Completing the team are Dr. Alfonso U. Bengzon, a diplomate fellow in Orbital Reconstruction-Oculoplastics from the Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute, Columbia Medical Center, New York; Dr. Sherman O. Valero, a diplomate, fellow in Retina and Vitreous Surgery from the University of Toronto, Canada; Dr. Mary Rose P. Teodoro, a UST graduate, holds a diplomate fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology at the Makati Medical Center, plans to specialize in Cornea and Ophthalmology Surgery and Dr. Maria Rosa L. Jimenez, doctor of optometry.

The establishment of the Asian Visions Group Clinic may be considered an important development and a welcome news for people who expect the best eye care professional services and modern facilities in this country. It's like a dream team, a perfect set of dedicated top-caliber eye experts, carefully formed and envisioned to give the ultimate medical services in the field of Ophthalmology in the Philippines and in Asia.

**NEW ICAP OFFICERS SWORN IN AT SEC**

The Investment Company Association of the Philippines (Icap) recently held the oath-taking for its 2002-2003 officers at the SEC. Inducting the new set of officers was SEC chair Lilia Bautista (right). The Icap officers are (from left) Efren Cruz, Fernando Jose Sison, Edwin Mendiola, Jo Ann Eala, Hector de Leon, Noel Gamo, Vincent Lazatin (president) and Artemio Tanchoco (chair).

**NEW PDA PRESIDENT SWORN IN**

Dr Luis D. Uy, president of the Philippine Dental Association for 2002-2003, was sworn into office by his fellow Cagayanon, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel during the President's Night of the 94th PDA Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting. The formal affair was sponsored by Colgate, the world leader in oral care.

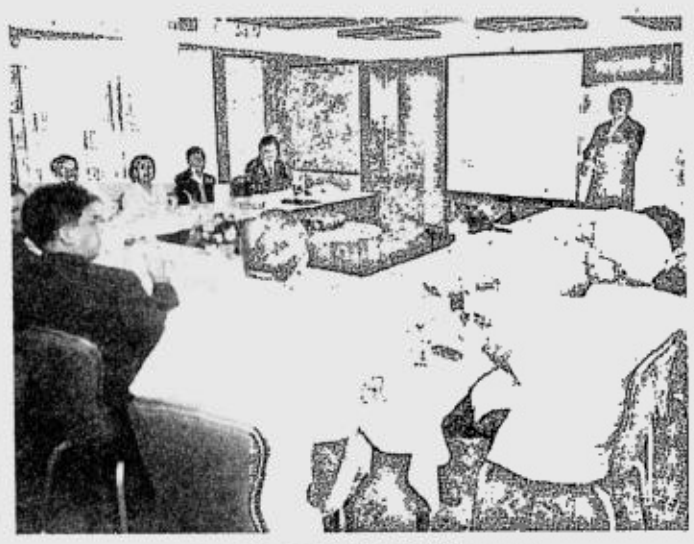
## HCMI inks partnership with SAVI for mileage plus

HONDA Cars Makati, Inc. (HCMI), with branches in Makati, Pasig, Alabang, and Shaw formally signed a partnership with Suburbia Automotive Ventures, Inc. (SAVI) for its Mileage Plus Program. Also supported by Shell Helix and shell Velocity, the HCMI Mielage Plus is a frequency open to all Honda car owners who come for regular servicing at any of the HCMI branches.

HCMI Mileage Plus members, who will have their regular Preventive Maintenance Service at any of the HCMI dealership, are entitled to free car services courtesy of Suburbia Automotive Ventures, Inc. (SAVI) if they strictly follow their regular servicing schedules. Membership to the HCMI Mileage Plus card is free and application forms are available at any HCMI dealerships.

For more inquiries, contact the Customer Relations Department of any HCMI branch at these numbers: Honda Cars Makati at 852-4181 local 103, 110, 170; Honda Cars Pasig at 634-2730 local 102-105; Honda Cars Alabang at 807-7889 local 305-306; and Honda Cars Shaw at 717-1681 local 418 and 420.

Honda Cars Makati, Inc is a member of the Ayala Group of Companies.



**2001 AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

The management committee of the 2001 Agency of the Year Awards met with the board of advisers at the New World Hotel in Makati City to discuss their plans and new guidelines. The event's theme for this year is 'A Call for Excellence' and the awards night will be held on July 27. The management committee is headed by chair March Ventosa, with Miguel Ramos as vice chair. Panel heads are Tere Filipinia (creative), Abby Jimenez (management of business), Charlyn Cabanero (market performance), Mitos Borromeo (media), Maya Estrada (industry leadership), Charlie Agatep (PR and participation), Roger Pe (Production House of the Year) and Vanne Tomada (administrative). For more inquiries, call 893-1205, or fax 813-4397.

**ERGO@STRAIGHT TALK**

Ergo recently signed a tie-up contract with ANC 21 for a product launching on the TV program 'Straight Talk With Cito Beltran' held recently at Congo Grill Restaurant in Quezon City. Shown, from left, are Virgie Monton, VP for sales and marketing, Ergo, Cito Beltran, host of 'Straight Talk', Malou O' Connor Ng, president of Ergo, and Karen Puno, executive producer of 'Straight Talk'. For 16 years, Ergo has been the leader in office systems in the Philippines. Its modern manufacturing plant is located at Carmelray Industrial Park in Canlubang, Laguna.

## Business venture course for NGO

IS YOUR NGO looking into a business venture that would generate a reliable source of income for your programs? Or do you have an existing income-generating activity that is not as successful as you'd want it to be?

Venture for fund raising, the non-profit organization that introduced the basic course on fund raising, invites you to its new course: Planning Successful Business Ventures. This is 1 ½-day course slated for July 2 to 3, will help you gain "business sense" and apply concepts that will help your NGO create a reliable source of income.

The workshop is for business development directors, marketing officers, program officers and executive directors. It will be held at the Mapua Information Technology Center (MITC), Old RCBC Building, Reposo Street, corner Buendia Avenue, Makati City. For more information, call 634-8889 to 90, send a fax to 637-3545 or email rica@venture-asia.org.

**ASGA CHARITY**

Officers of the Alabang Seniors Golf Association (Asga) distributed 300 packages of assorted goodies to wards of the Golden Acres Home for the Aged during one of Asga's outreach projects for 2002. The activity was highlighted by actor Nestor de Villa's Bible lecture on salvation to hundreds of elderlies. Volunteer executive officer Navarro of Golden Acres received the donations from Asga officers Pompey Nolasco, Ben Narciso, Ed Gaddi, Frenchie Espinosa and Nestor de Villa.

## Free seminar on water treatment

A FREE technical seminar on water treatment and purification involved in the operation of water stores and refilling stations will be sponsored by the Water Quality Association Philippines (WQAP) and the Sanitarians Association of the Philippines (SAPI) on July 27, starting at 1 p.m. at the Philippine Columbian Clubhouse, Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila, it was jointly announced by Dr. Jovito Y. Deauna and engineer Rogelio Pueblo, president of WQAP and SAPI respectfully.

The seminar is aimed to upgrade the technical know-how of those engaged in the Water Refilling Station (WRS) business and make them comply with the government licensing and sanitary requirements based on the standards of the Department of Health (DOH) to protect the consuming public.

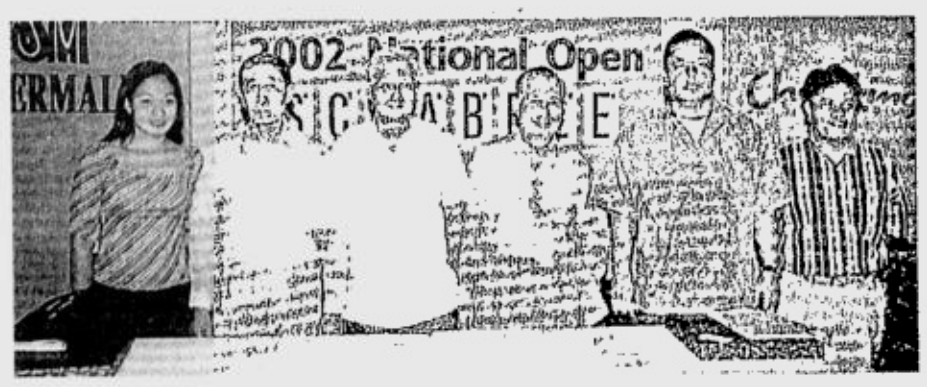
The speakers in the half-day seminar are Dr. Jovito Deauna who will talk on the different methods of water treatment and purification; lawyer Pablo P. Magno, WQAP vice president will discuss the legal and ethics in the operation of WRS; engineer Rogelio Pueblo will talk on the sanitary requirement in the operation of WRS; engineer Joselito Riego de Dios, chief, health program officer National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, DOH will talk on the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Chapter II – "Water Supply of the Sanitation Code of the Philippines" – P.D. 856.

The WQAP is an organization of water professionals, manufacturers of water treatment and purification equipment, dealers, suppliers of other water related products and services affiliated with Water Quality association (WQA) International based on Lisle, Illinois with members in 74 countries worldwide dedicated to promoting the highest principles of honesty, integrity, fair dealing and professionalism in the water quality improvement industry.

Operators of water stores and refilling stations are welcome to be a member of WQAP (453-8395) with offices at 72 Road 20, Project 8, Quezon City.

**PALSCON MEET GUEST SPEAKER**

Lawyer Teresita R. Manzala, 3rd from left, director IV of the Bureau of Local Employment of DOLE NCR, was the guest speaker of the Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors Inc. (Palscon) at its general membership meeting at Valle Verde Country Club. Shown with her are Palscon officers (from left) Linda Dichoson (Almer), Fermin Cunanan (Servlink), Rufi Parpan (Integrated Dynamic Services), Mel Gervasio (Pinagpala Manpower), Lilia Linda Ang (Step Inc.), Jane Adair (The Best Manpower), and Vir Tatunay (Peerless Integrated).

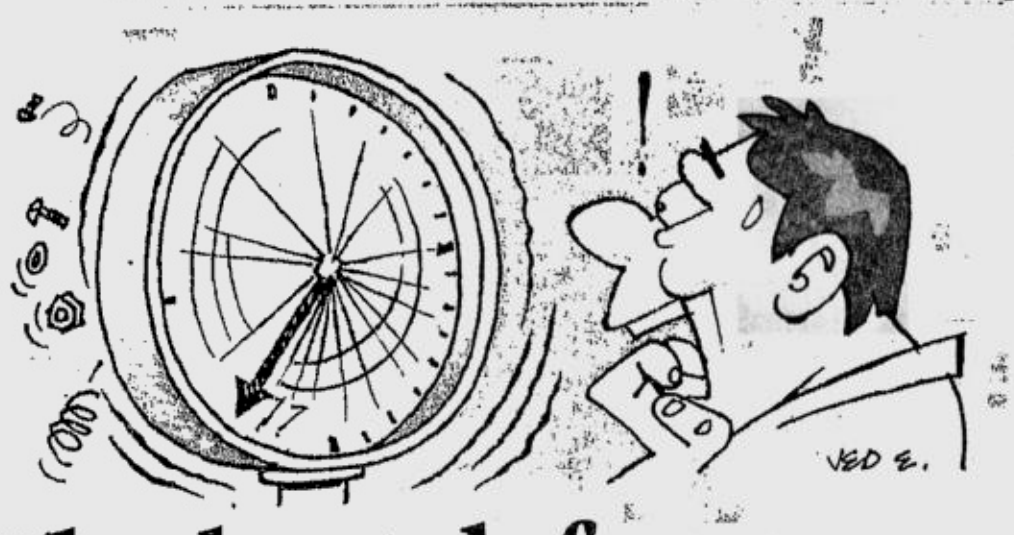



**MABUHAY HOSTS SCRABBLE TOURNEY**

Mabuhay Educational Center Inc. hosted its annual National Open Scrabble Championship held at SM City Manila May 31. Shown, from left, are Ding U. Gutierrez, Chowking customer relations assistant, lawyer Henry Estrella, Mabuhay Scrabble director, Sofronio Go, VP of Mabuhay Education Center, Custodios J. Teng, president of Mabuhay Education Center, Domingo Bartolome, Special Operations Officer III of Manila, and director Teddy Bolivar of Sports Activities Inc., the organizer of the event. The event was organized in cooperation with the Scrabble Association of the Philippines (SCAP) and the National Amateur Scrabble Association of the Philippines (Nascap).

**NEW CUSTOMS INITIATIVE**

To find out more about the government's efforts to raise revenues, the Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP) recently held a forum on 'A New Customs Initiative Under the New Administration.' Invited as guest speaker was Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, plaque of appreciation in hand, who was introduced by incoming PMMAP director Juanito Rosales of Ayala Land Inc.



# The best defense against the bulge

ALMOST everyone fights fat at one time or another. Reducing fads come and go; dieters hopefully cut their calories for a week—or a month—and then, in droves, fall off their diets.

How many are ordinarily able to attain a good weight and then retain it for as long as one year?

The thing is, little do most know that losing weight involves not just one element and entails not just money, but more important, discipline and a proper mind-set over time.

Steadfastly bearing in mind the essential consideration in achieving an effective weight management agenda would then, indeed, be crucial to weight-watchers—not just to look and feel better, but also to prevent health problems associated with overweight and obesity.

### Uncomplicated guide

The good news is that Abbott Laboratories has introduced the "10-20-30 Weight Management Program" to provide all weight watchers an uncomplicated guide on the three important considerations in achieving safe and effective weight reduction—doctor consultation, proper diet and regular exercise.

The program was launched in two waves at Lolo Dad's Café in Malate, Manila, wherein several invited speakers noted in their own fields of endeavors were invited to talk on the three important considerations in successful weight management. First featured were cardiologist Dr. Loewe Go of St. Luke's Medical Center, award-winning chef Ariel Manuel as well as model and TV host Angel Aquino. The second launch also included Dr. Go, this time, with award-wining chef Heny Sison; and Vicky Aquino, 2001 Philips Survivor Game champion.

### Medical guidance

The program kicks off with the significance of medical guidance in ensuring a dependable weight-reducing regimen (including antiobesity drug interventions), therefore signifying the importance of even just "10 minutes" of medical consultation, as stressed by Dr. Go.

"This is from where the doctor would identify the problem areas and recommend healthier food options," said Dr. Go. "Without the patient's cooperation, the specific weight management regimen would surely fail."

What your specific doctor could do is determine the cause of overweight or obesity and treat it, treat complications, refer you to a dietitian, recommend behavior modification therapy and check contraindications to weight control and aerobic program. Your doctor could also be consulted about pharmacological interventions that support long-term weight control.

### Secrets

Sison, who shared her secrets in preparing healthful meals, emphasized the role of modifying one's unhealthy eating habits—representing the "20" percent less regular food intake, that is, doing away with fatty and oily foods and initiating a high-fiber diet. That is because a person gains weight if he eats more than what his body uses and those excess calories are stored as fat.

Vikki, on the other hand, shared her own fitness tips that keep her healthy—that is, including at leaast "30" minutes of regular exercise.

"(I believe) there's no such thing as 'instant' ways when it comes to losing weight," said Vikki, who is also a manager of a high-profile gym in Makati. "The natural methods tend to yield better results, but as always, most of us would find reasons to avoid exercise."

Indeed, the usual mind-set is to get rid of excess body fat fast that involves the use of "instant" slimming methods like pills and surgery. "But, sad as it is, the fat will only keep coming back," she said. "And we just end up feeling sorry for ourselves."

In truth, to many of us, exercise is a bore or a chore. "The problem actually begins when one refuses to perform daily moderate activity—such as walking, climbing the stairs, or doing household chores. In time, sluggishness would set in and with it, weight gain," Vikki cited.

Indeed, taking regular exercise does not mean violent weekends of golf, but a daily drill that becomes as much part of your life as brushing your teeth.

### Better goals

"There are better goals to aim for than just losing weight. In the long run, good health and improvement of overall well-being you got from all your effort would continue inspiring you to stick to a healthier lifestyle—and opt for more natural ways of maintaining your weight," Vikki said.

There really is no shortcut to achieving physical fitness. Time and again, we are reminded that success in this pursuit highly depends on ourselves—what physical activities we do and what we eat, among other considerations.

To help weight watchers achieve their goals, Abbott Laboratories, through its Direct Marketing Group, offers free counseling service on proper nutrition (and other weight management topics). The Abbott 10-20-30 Program hotline is 689-0555.

# Science celebration: best books of the year

EUREKA!

*Queena N. Lee-Chua*

*(First of four parts)*

ALTHOUGH scientific research is still sparse in our country (compared to our Asian neighbors), it is heartening that every year some excellent publications do manage to be published. At the conclusion of its 24th annual scientific meeting on July 11 at the Manila Hotel, the National Academy of Science and Technology will recognize the following books and monographs:

1. "Spore-and-Seed-Bearing Plants of Mount Pulag, Benguet, Philippines" (Museum of Natural History, UP Los Baños, 2000), by Norma O. Aguilar, Lourdes B. Cardenas and Mary Ann O. Cajano.

According to Chancellor Wilfredo David: "Prior to the publication of this monograph, the only known extensive work on the flora of Mount Pulag was that of E.D. Merril published in 1910. Although very helpful, it did not contain photographs or full descriptions of the plants. Needless to say, a new inventory is in order.

"The flora of Mount Pulag is special because it is different from the rest of the country. Due to its high elevation, cool climate and northward location in the country, it carries migrated plants of the north not typically found in the Malesian flora. Many plants mentioned here can thus only be found in the said region and not in the rest of the country. The authors documented the plants from 1995 to 1999, visiting the region during different seasons of the year. When Executive Order 249 was not yet in force, plant samples were also collected and deposited as specimens at the MNH Herbarium. Efforts were exerted to 'catch' plants while they were blooming for accurate botanical identification. Not all visits gave this possibility. Neither was the weather always good for photography. Any scientific work requires sound baseline information and this is what the monograph provides. It has been used by students and researchers alike, local and foreign."

(The sequel to this work, "Medicinal and Poisonous Plants of Mount Pulag," will receive a special citation.)

### Hybrid rice

2. "Hybrid Rice in the Philippines: Progress and New Horizons" (Food and Agriculture Organization and the Philippine Rice Research Institute, 2001), edited by Edilberto D. Redona and Manuel G. Gaspar.

According to executive director Leocadio Sebastian: "The book is the first comprehensive and state-of-the-art publication of research and development initiatives on hybrid rice technology in the Philippines. Not only does it chronicle...the progress attained on hybrid rice research in different scientific disciplines, but it also serves as valuable reference material on which to base future research initiatives not only in the Philippines but also in other countries as well. The distribution of the book to various agencies involved in the national hybrid rice program has greatly enhanced the knowledge and skills of research and extension personnel across the country, including the Department of Agriculture's *Ginintuang Masaganang Ani* rice program, where the commercialization of hybrid rice technology is the featured component."

### Entomology

3. "Biology and Management of Stored Product and Postharvest Insect Pests" (Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development, 2001), edited by Belen M. Rejesus and Romeo S. Rejesus.

According to UPLB Department of Entomology chair Virginia Ocampo: "This book fills the need of southeast Asian nations as well as other tropical countries for a comprehensive reference material on stored produce and postharvest entomology. It serves as a handy and easy-to-understand technical reference for researchers, teachers, students, pest managers, pest control operators, food processors, quarantine officers, and farmers."

### Philippine English

4. "Defining Standard Philippine English: Its Status and Grammatical Features" (De La Salle University, 2000), by Ma. Lourdes S. Bautista.

According to College of Education Dean Allan Bernardo: "The monograph provides a most detailed and thorough analysis of the grammatical features of Standard Philippine English (SPE) and contextualizes the development of these features within the sociolinguistic realities of the Philippines. It provides the most comprehensive account of the status and features (and even the prospects) of the grammar of SPE, giving scholars an accessible overview. It showcases the application of new and more appropriate methodologies to analyze an extensive corpus of written and spoken texts, providing other researchers new tools to advance scholarship in Philippine linguistics. Most importantly, the frameworks used link what could have been a parochial undertaking to the larger body of linguistic scholarship. The findings and the analyses provide new insights on a wide range of theoretical issues, such as the problems of postcolonial Englishes, the process of nativizing a nongenetically related language into the matrix of a society that has several indigenous languages, the problems attendant to the various stages in the process of standardization, and the impact of different social forces on the dynamics of language change."

### Climate change

5. "Disturbing Climate" (Manila Observatory, Ateneo de Manila University, 2001), edited by Jose T. Villarin, S.J.

According to School of Science and Engineering Dean Toby Dayrit: "Most of the current scientific and political debates that rage on the climate front are focused on how we as a global community are to exercise that responsibility for a changing climate in the 21st century. The Philippines is actively engaged in this global debate. This book documents our engagement in a collection of papers that can well shape our response to the complex issue of climate change. The essays blend science and policy. The problem was raised initially by the scientific community, but even as a scientific issue, it already proved itself intractable since the manifold questions it posed demanded answers that had to be drawn from the knowledge pools of the natural, mathematical and social sciences.

"At the outset it was already evident that solutions could not be found solely in the arcane confines of the laboratory of computer models. The only effective response would have to be a concerted effort which bridges both science and policy, one that straddles that multidisciplinary worlds of economics, political science, ethics, and ecology, among others. Such a response would also have to be multisectoral in character, engaging institutions on environment, energy, forestry, economic planning, industry, public works, transportation, academe, NGOs and civil society. The essays here have been written in the view of that pluralism."

Another book, "Inherited Disorders of Metabolism in the Newborn: A Guide for Primary Physicians" (UP Manila Office of Research, Institute of Human Genetics, National Institutes of Health, 2001), edited by Carmencita D. Padilla, Eva Maria C. Cutiongco, and Carmelita F. Domingo, will receive a special citation.

Congratulations to all the awardees, especially my colleague, Fr. Jet Villarin, S.J.

*(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)*

# The case of the shellfish attack

MEDICAL FILES

**By Rafael R. Castillo, M.D.**

THE SANTOS family's trip to the beach suddenly ended with a trip to the hospital. It all started after the family had finished their lunch of fish *inthaw* and a variety of seafoods, which included crabs, shrimps and baked *tahong*.

Family members were getting ready to take another dip into the refreshing waters of Batangas when 4-year-old Sigfred, the youngest among the Santos brood, started feeling squeamish and sick. Suddenly, he clutched his abdomen and vomited almost everything he had for lunch. He coughed like he had a whole gallon of phlegm that just won't come out. He started having difficulty of breathing and was already on the verge of passing out.

### Severe allergic attack

The whole family panicked but managed to rush him to the nearest hospital that fortunately was just a few minutes away. At the emergency room, the doctors immediately injected him with shots of adrenaline, antihistamine and steroids. These dramatically relieved Sigfred's symptoms. After an overnight stay in the hospital, he looked and felt his old self again, as if the previous day's near-fatal event was just an act.

The doctor told the family that what Sigfred had was an anaphylactic reaction, which is a severe allergic attack. It may be from food or from some elements in the beach. To determine which exactly caused the allergic reaction—called allergens, tests should be done and the family should consult an allergy expert or allergologist.

Back in Manila, the Santoses did not waste any time. They went to consult Dr. Benigno Agbayani Sr., an internationally renowned allergologist practicing at the Manila Doctors' Hospital. He immediately ordered a series of tests but instead of the usual skin prick testing that may be a traumatic experience for children like Sigfred, the doctor opted for a simple blood test to determine which among the suspected allergens caused the severe allergic reaction. The Manila Doctors' Hospital is one of a few hospitals in the country with a state-of-the-art facility to test for allergy using only a small specimen of blood.

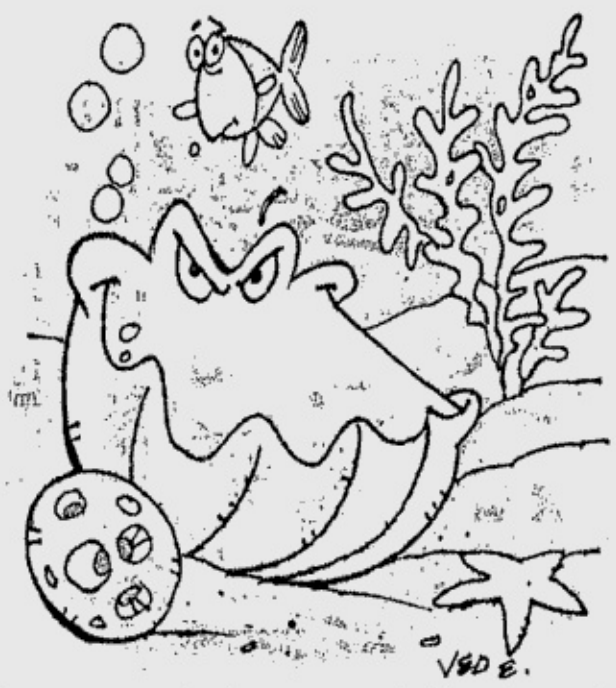
Blood tests are often used in children, but not if the patient is afraid of multiple skin pricking, has a widespread skin condition, or is taking medications like antihistamines (allergy pills) that could interfere with the test reaction.

The radio-allergosorbent test (RAST) and the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (Elisa) test are two of the blood tests that can be used in allergy testing. In both, a small amount of blood taken from the allergy sufferer is analyzed for amounts of antibodies in the blood, sign of an allergic reaction. It was through these tests that Dr. Agbayani found the culprit. Sigfred was confirmed to be allergic to shellfish.

### Very common problem

Allergies are a very common problem, affecting at least 2 out of every 10 persons in the world. Individuals who suffer from allergies have an overactive immune system. If AIDS is the failing of our immune system, allergy is the exact opposite. Allergy symptoms are the result of too much activity of the immune system

It is the job of the immune system to protect our bodies by producing antibodies that would fight infections. However, people who have allergies have a hyperactive immune system that overreacts to a certain substance in the environment. Exposure to what is normally a harmless substance like shellfish in Sigfred's case, causes the immune system to react as if the substance is harmful.



A food allergy is an immune system's response to a food that the body mistakenly believes is harmful. Once the immune system decides that a particular food is harmful, it creates specific antibodies to it. The next time the individual eats that food, the immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals, including histamine, in its mistaken effort to protect the body. These chemicals trigger a cascade of allergic symptoms that can affect the respiratory system, gastrointestinal tract, skin, or cardiovascular system.

Allergic reactions to fish and shellfish can be severe and are often a cause of anaphylaxis, which is a severe and sometimes, even fatal allergic reaction. In anaphylaxis, the whole body is affected, usually within minutes of exposure to the allergen but sometimes after hours.

### Attack symptoms

During an anaphylactic attack, the victim may become uneasy, upset and red in the face. They may also develop a rapid heartbeat, pricking sensation and itchiness in the skin, throbbing in the ears, sneezing, coughing and difficulty of breathing. Shock may then follow because the blood vessels become leaky; blood pressure falls and the person becomes cold, clammy and subsequently faints.

"So doc, would that mean that shellfish is definitely forbidden for Sigfred?" asked Sigfred's mom.

"Strict avoidance of the allergy-causing food is the only way to avoid a reaction," the doctor replied.

Currently, there are no medications that cure food allergies. Most people outgrow their food allergies, although peanuts, nuts, fish and shellfish are often considered lifelong allergies.

### Helping ease symptoms

However, there are several medicines—both over-the-counter and prescription preparations—to help ease annoying symptoms like congestion and a runny nose. These include antihistamines, decongestants, combination medicines, eye drops, nasal sprays and in severe cases—epinephrine and steroids.

Epinephrine is a hormone produced in the body by the adrenal glands. It is released at times of acute stress to enhance our capability of "fight or flight." Some call it the "rescue hormone." When given a dose of epinephrine, the body is just given something that it is naturally producing already. It is just given faster and at a higher dose so that the rescuing surge required is achieved right away.

Epinephrine, thus, reverses the negative effects of an anaphylactic reaction and helps to dilate the airways. It is the initial treatment of choice for anaphylaxis, especially during a life-threatening attack. For this reason, it is recommended that anaphylaxisprone individuals carry a ready-to-inject epinephrine kit with them at all times.

### Most important medicines

Antihistamines are also one of the most important medicines for treating allergies. They help relieve symptoms such as congestion, sneezing, itchy eyes and runny nose by blocking the action of histamine, a naturally occurring substance that is released by the immune system after one is exposed to an allergen. If a more potent anti-allergic effect is desired particularly in more severe reactions, steroids are given together with the antihistamines.

Allergy shots, also called "immunotherapy," are given to increase one's tolerance to the substances or the allergens that provoke allergy symptoms. They are usually recommended for people who suffer from allergies more than three months each year. Although they may not promise to cure allergies, they can significantly reduce the patient's sensitivity to certain substances.

### Major role

Because Sigfred is still too young to manage his seafood sensitivity, his family should play a major role in helping him cope with his allergy. Their allergologist recommended that, as much as possible, they avoid giving Sigfred any type and form of shellfish. Dr. Agbayani also advised them to be cautious when eating out because there may be the risk of contamination in the food-preparation area of their "non-fish" meal, such as from a counter, spatula, cooking oil, fryer, or grill exposed to shellfish.

In addition, shellfish protein can become airborne during cooking and cause an allergic reaction. It is possible that Sigfred might exhibit allergic reactions even by simply walking through a wet market selling shellfish.

It was easy for Sigfred to develop a natural aversion—more of a phobia—to shellfish, his allergen. The family explained to him, in a kid-friendly version, what an allergy is and why it made him sick at the beach. Being a smart boy, Sigfred was quick to understand his condition and that made it easier for him and his family to manage his allergy.

Recently, Sigfred celebrated his fifth birthday with a "no-seafood" party. It did not matter because Sigfred's favorite foods were the ones on the menu—spaghetti, hotdog on sticks, barbecue, cake and ice cream. And the lifelong ban on seafoods? He can surely live with that—literally and in a figurative sense.

SCIENCE/HEALTH
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ● Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

SMOKING CESSATION CLINICS

# Helping smokers stop the addiction

By Tessa R. Salazar

**AN OBSTRUCTED blood vessel in the heart has prompted your doctor to instruct you to stop smoking, but you don't know if you have enough will power to quit cold turkey, even if you know that it's a matter of life or death.**

You badly want to quit smoking because it is straining your relationship with your wife, children or girlfriend. The truth is, you can't seem to break your dependence on nicotine.

A local study showed that 46 percent of adult Filipinos had smoked at least once. The same study, which was done in 1999, revealed that among young people, one in three was a smoker. Another study showed that of current smokers, 65 percent wanted to quit but most of those who tried quitting found themselves smoking once more.

Nicotine, according to the World Health Organization, is the single most powerful addictive substance in the world.

A study by the US Food and Drug Administration showed that over 80 percent of tobacco users were physically addicted to nicotine. Compare this to people who were addicted to alcohol (10 percent), cocaine (less than 25 percent), and heroin (less than 35 percent).

The WHO, in fact, recognizes tobacco dependence as a "disease entity."

To break the addiction to nicotine, pharmacologic (prescription drugs) and behavioral measures are a good combination, experts say. There are nicotine- and nonnicotine-based medications that help control the addiction.

Nicotine replacement treatments are available in skin patches, chewing gums, lollipops, nasal sprays and even an inhaler. But most of these nicotine treatments are no longer available in the country.

Dr. Luisito Idolor of the Lung Center of the Philippines says the lack of public support caused their withdrawal from the Philippine market.

Today, people who need nicotine replacement therapy have to order them abroad, making them more expensive.

### Clinics

Smoking cessation programs, which are at their infancy in the Philippines, provide an alternative to nicotine replacement treatments. Institutions known to have such programs are the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, University of Sto. Tomas, Lung Center of the Philippines and Manila Sanitarium and Hospital.

The UP-PGH program, which is free of charge, requires patients to participate in four sessions. The sessions are held on Fridays, with a maximum of five participants. The clinic accepts walk-in patients.

To encourage participants to quit, the program uses different methodologies. Some participants even sign a "contract" with themselves to make the commitment to quit more binding.

At least one smoking cessation program at the UP-PGH attained a 43 percent continuous abstinence rate six months after completion. The rate, according to an article in the November-December 2001 issue of the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine, is comparable to those in smoking cessation programs abroad.

### Understanding addiction

UP-PGH pulmonologist Dr. Lalaine Montero, one of those in charge of the smoking cessation clinics, explains that the first session is devoted to learning why it's hard to quit smoking, as well as understanding the addictive properties of tobacco.

She says participants are told what to expect once they quit: withdrawal symptoms that could lead to weight loss yet an increase in appetite, higher degree of nervousness, loss of concentration, and salivation.

The first two weeks after quitting, when withdrawal symptoms are at their peak, is crucial, according to Montero.

In the second session, participants choose their "quit dates" and discuss what they think and feel.

In the third session, participants discuss withdrawal symptoms as well as their planned coping mechanisms. They are taught how to program the smoking cessation with the help of pulmonologists, dietitians, nurses, and sometimes, psychiatrists.

The participants "graduate" during the last session. A team checks on each participant every three or six months to see how they are doing.

After more than a year and a half, Montero says, the UP-PGH clinics have produced more than 50 successful participants.

### Lung Center program

At the Lung Center Smoking Cessation Clinic, participants can choose an individual or group program. Both are free of charge.

The first stage of the six-week program involves the contemplation to quit smoking. After this, two approaches are employed: psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy. (The latter, however, has been scrapped since drugs are no longer available.)

Psychological support is also provided.

After the contemplative stage, the person signs a "social contract," a quit date. A week or two before that date, there are psychotherapy interventions.

Dr. Niño Ismael Pastor says the smoking cessation clinic team is composed of a psychologist, pulmonologist and dietitians—"all working together for health education."

The Lung Center also holds free programs for employees in government and private companies. Materials, food and lecture are free.

### Private clinic

UST is distinct in a sense that it is the only private institution that provides a smoking cessation program for a price.

Dr. Patrick Gerard L. Moral, head of the UST Smoking Cessation Clinic, says the program charges participants P500 for a six-week course.

"We've noticed that our programs that were given for free were not valued by the individual," Moral says.

The clinic is manned by a respiratory therapist and a pulmonologist.

The UST smoking cessation clinic was patterned after the Start Smart program, where a husband-and-wife team had combined behavior changes and drug treatment, Moral says.

The program initially provided bupropion (Zyban) to its participants at discounted rates. The clinic is considering alternative sources of medication following the recent withdrawal of the product from the market. It plans to source nicotine replacement agents as well as bupropion from international suppliers.

# Experts say smoking effects even worse than we thought

LONDON—Tobacco smoke is even more cancerous than previously thought, for both smokers and nonsmokers who breathe in the fumes, causing cancer in many more parts of the body than previously believed, an authoritative panel of experts has concluded.

The experts, convened by the United Nation's cancer research agency, said on Wednesday that they have determined that the increased risk of tumors that smoking brings is even higher than previously noted.

They are also now certain, for the first time, that secondhand smoke causes cancer.

The analysis for the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a branch of the World Health Organization, is the first major examination of the accumulated research on tobacco smoke and cancer since 1986.

The scientists combined the results of more than 3,000 studies involving millions of people, which allowed them to draw conclusions that were not possible in smaller individual studies.

"Only now are we beginning to see the full picture of what happens when a generation begins to smoke at an early age, as youth do, and then smoke across their whole lifetime. Before, we only had snapshots," said the panel's chair, Dr. Jonathan Samet, head of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

"The full picture is more disturbing than what we had seen when we only had the smaller pieces," Samet said.

### Premature deaths

There are about 1.2 billion smokers worldwide. Half of them will die prematurely from their habit, from cancer, heart disease, emphysema or other smoking-related diseases, research has shown.

The best way to prevent those deaths is to get smokers to quit, the scientists said.

"Our group concluded that any possible public health gains from changes in cigarette characteristics or composition would be minimal by comparison. Changes in cigarettes are not the way to prevent cancer," Samet said.

The panel, made up of 29 leading experts from 12 countries, looked at the evidence across the whole range of cancers, including those previously suspected of being linked to smoking and those thought to have no connection.

The investigation found that in types of cancer already linked to smoking, the increased risk caused by smoking is higher than previously believed.

"For example, for tumors of the bladder and the renal pelvis, we previously thought the elevated risk was three to four times that of a nonsmoker. Today, it looks like the risk is elevated five to six times," said Dr. Paul Kleihues, IARC director.

Two cancer types under suspicion were cleared—the breast and the endometrium (the lining of the womb). Prostate cancer has been less studied, but the group did not think it was caused by smoking.

### New findings

Types of cancer newly declared to be caused by smoking were cancers of the stomach, liver, cervix, uterus, kidney, nasal sinus and myeloid leukemia. The IARC will add those to the list of cancers known to be caused by smoking.

"Practically all the cancers of tissues that are exposed to the environment in one way or another are affected by the chemicals distributed throughout the body when you inhale tobacco smoke," said Sir Richard Doll, a veteran Oxford University professor and member of the panel.

Cancers already identified as being caused by smoking include lung, oral cavity, gullet, larynx, pharynx, pancreas and the bladder.

The panel also reanalyzed the 20 or 30 years of research on cancer and secondhand smoke, sometimes referred to as passive smoking. It concluded that breathing in secondhand tobacco smoke increases the risk of lung cancer by 20 percent.

While national governments have previously deemed that secondhand smoke causes cancer, this is the first time that the UN cancer agency—which has strict criteria for evaluating evidence—or any organization with a global sweep, has reached this conclusion.

### Childhood cancers

The group found no clear evidence that children exposed to their parent's tobacco smoke, whether in the womb or after birth, have an elevated risk of developing childhood cancers. Whether such children have an increased risk of lung or other cancers in adulthood remains unclear, the panel said.

The report presents the most authoritative evidence on the issue but does not make any recommendation on what governments should do in response to the findings.

However, reports of this kind from the UN cancer agency have previously had a major impact on the formation of government policy.

Several national governments and international bodies, as well as the WHO, are considering, or are in the process of negotiating, new regulations on tobacco.

"We think that the facts speak for themselves and that the most effective way of avoiding a carcinogenic exposure is to stay away from it," said Dr. Jerry Rice, chief of the unit that identifies and evaluates cancer-causing substances at the IARC. ***AP***

# Women smokers take longer to conceive

LONDON—Want to get pregnant right away? Then quit smoking.

Women who smoke while trying for a baby take longer to conceive than nonsmokers, a new study by scientists at the Institute of Health Sciences at Oxford University showed.

The study revealed that it took smokers almost two months longer to become pregnant than women who had never smoked or those who had quit more than a year earlier.

"The study clearly shows a link between smoking and fertility problems," said Marcus Munafo, who led the research team.

"The message from this research is that if you want to get pregnant, you will not only improve your chances by quitting, you will also be doing something to protect the health of your child in the long term," he added.

Munafo and his colleagues compared the time it took 569 women—smokers, ex-smokers and those who had never smoked— to conceive. The average age of the women was 29.

The scientists found no difference between women who had never smoked and those who had quit at least a year before.

"This is good news for women smokers who are thinking of trying for a baby. It shows that it is never too late to give up. A year after quitting, a woman's chances of conceiving return to those of a never-smoker," said Munafo, whose research is reported in the Journal of Biosocial Science.

In addition to delaying conception, smoking during pregnancy is linked to higher infant mortality, an increased risk of respiratory infection and lower-weight babies. ***Reuters***

**AT 6:05:20 A.M., the maximum eclipse is achieved, with 67percent coverage of the sun.**

**AT 6:41:27 A.M., the partial eclipse is about to end.**

PHOTOS BY JAMES KEVIN TY

# Chasing a solar eclipse

By Charles E. Buban

LAST June 11, while most Filipinos were still sleeping, a group of amateur astronomers went to the Manila Observatory and set up their instruments to catch the sun's first images. Actually, it wasn't the sun they were after, but the moon that would glide in front of it.

That day, the country happened to be in the path of a partial solar eclipse. The moon was covering a portion of the sun's disk shortly after it rose over this part of the world, the reason sky watchers had to prepare their instruments early.

The moon's shadow followed a 14,000-kilometer path, racing eastward from Asia across the Pacific Ocean at 1,609 km per hour. While other places (like in the tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula) were lucky to see the moon darken all but the glowing rim of the sun for about a minute, here in the Philippines we only saw a partial eclipsing of the sun.

"If we happened to be in the path of annularity, we'd see an extremely thin ring of fire rising in the horizon. But the crescent sun (the moon's disc had covered 67 percent) that greeted us that morning was still spectacular," said James Kevin Ty of the Philippine Astronomical Society.

### Annular eclipse

During an annular eclipse, the moon passes directly in front of the sun but is unable to completely cover it because the moon's disk appears smaller than the sun.

The annular phase of the eclipse can only be seen from a very narrow track called path of annularity. Although this month's annular path is nearly 14,000-km long, it is only 13 to 78-km wide—which is why we only got a partial eclipse although the path of annularity was just in the vicinity of Sulawesi, Indonesia.

It takes only one good eclipse to hook anybody for life. But even first-time eclipse chasers should remember some important precautions.

Never ever look directly at the sun.

Said Ty: "Staring at the sun without suitable eye protection—even during an eclipse—can cause permanent eye damage. That is why we use different sorts of solar filters, which block all but a fraction of the sun's light, on our telescopes, cameras and eyewear."

There are other safe and easy ways to view a solar eclipse. One is to project an image of the sun onto a screen through a properly shielded telescope.

### Total solar eclipse

An event many people look forward to this year is the total solar eclipse on Dec. 4.

The path of the moon's umbral shadow will begin in the South Atlantic, cross southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, and end at sunset in southern Australia. A partial eclipse will be seen within the much broader path of the moon's penumbral shadow, which includes most of Africa, western Australia and Antarctica.

Unfortunately Filipinos will miss the chance to see the event, unless they go to Australia.

Unlike an annular eclipse, a total eclipse casts a darker shadow (about 10,000 times darker, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration). However, the shadow cast by a total eclipse is not like that of a dark moonless night. Straight overhead the sky is very dark but near the horizon one can see the edge of the moon's shadow glowing, like during sunrise or sunset. But unlike a sunrise, which appears only in the east, this glow circles the horizon's full 360 degrees.

This is a very rare event because an eclipse of the sun can only take place during a new moon, and only if the moon passes between the sun and earth.

# SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Edmund L. Sicam

# Jennifer Lopez to play superheroes' shrink

LOS ANGELES—Trouble in the Bat Cave?

Feeling uptight over kryptonite? Going through a secret-identify crisis? Worried that you are an exhibitionist because you enjoy stripping off your street clothes in a public phone booth?

No problem. Dr. J Lo is in.

**Psychologist**

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez plans to star as a psychologist for superheroes in an upcoming film comedy titled "Shrink," which she will also help produce for Columbia Pictures, the studio said on Tuesday.

Based on an Internet character created by former Marvel Comics illustrator Rob Liefeld, "Shrink" marks the first film project under Lopez's new production deal with Columbia, a unit of Japanese electronics giant Sony Corp., a studio spokesman said.

The material was optioned as Columbia basks in the record-shattering box-office success of a more traditional superhero adventure, "Spider-Man," the latest in a new wave of crime fighters in tights leaping off the pages of comic books and onto the screen.

"Shrink" takes a more tongue-in-cheek approach to the genre, with Lopez playing a former superhero who hangs up her cape for a new career as a counselor catering to the psychologically troubled Supermen and Wonder Women of the world. But things get complicated when she finds herself caught in a love triangle.

**Supporting cast**

Columbia also plans to include a supporting cast of readily familiar superheroes from the pages of real comic books, in the way that last year's computer-animated storybook satire "Shrek" borrowed recognizable characters from popular fairy tales.

A studio spokesman described the project as in its infancy, with no script and with no director or other talent yet attached.

"Spider-Man" has grossed more than $353 million so far domestically, proving again the muscular box-office potential of films based on comic crime fighters. But the last superhero spoof from a major studio, Universal Pictures' 1999 ensemble comedy "Mystery Men," was a commercial dud. Universal is a unit of Vivendi Universal SA.

Still, David Guillod, who is producing "Shrink" with Lopez, Liefeld and others, told Daily Variety they see "gigantic franchise" potential in the project.

Lopez, 32, is currently starring in the Columbia Pictures thriller "Enough," about a young mother fighting back against her abusive husband. *Reuters*

**LOPEZ.** Love triangle.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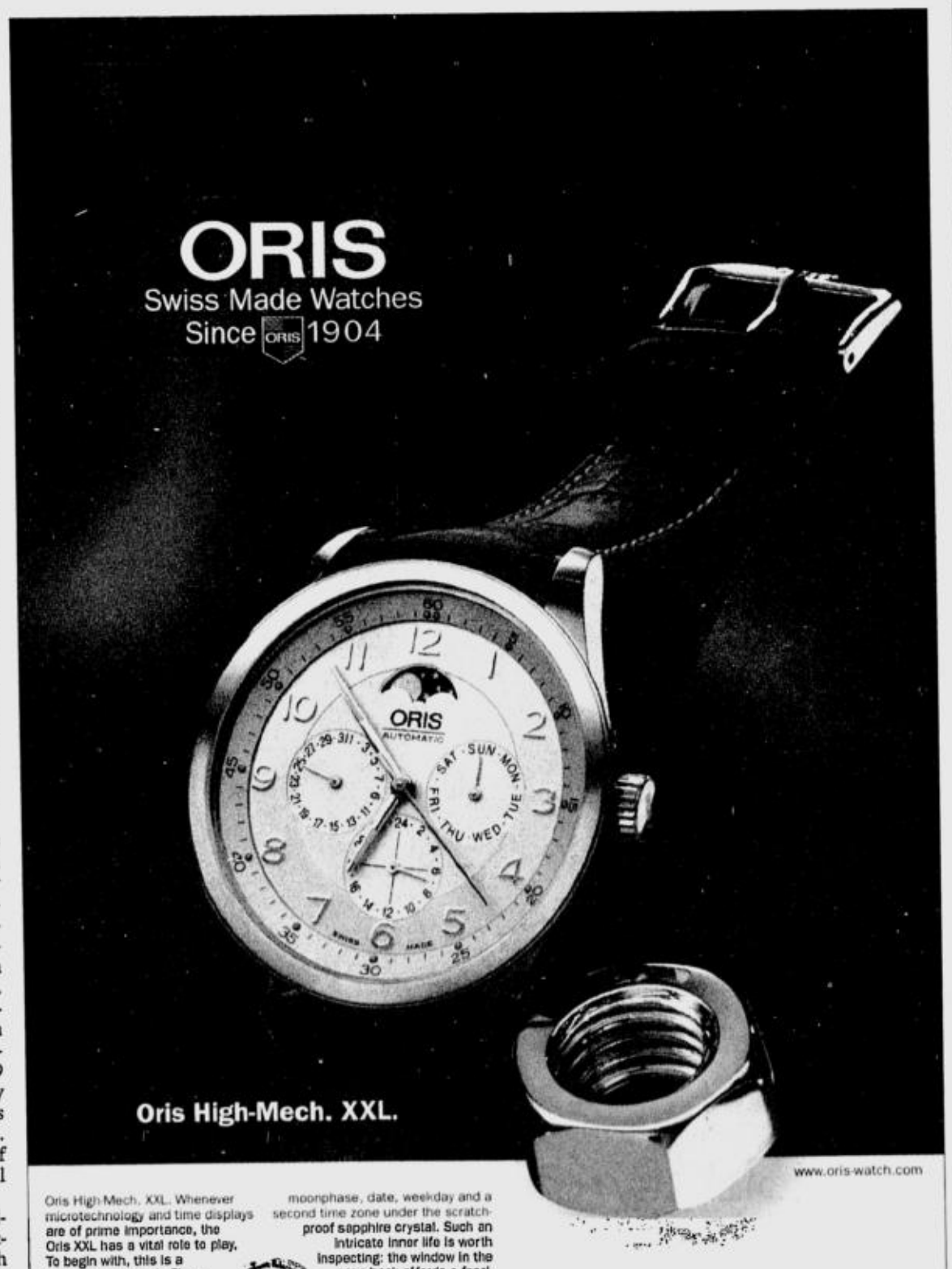


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# Unique historical record of Sept. 11, 2001

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

STARTING at 7 tonight, CNN will telecast the very special documentary, "In Memoriam: New York City, 9/11/01." Produced by Brad Grey Pictures and HBO, the film presents a unique historical record of that tragic day through the eyes of former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Guiliani and other New Yorkers.

The special will also be telecast on June 23 at 10 p.m., June 25 at 9 p.m., June 26 at 3 a.m., and June 30 at 10 p.m. on CNN International, which is seen in more than 170 million households in more than 210 countries and territories around the world.

Jeff Bewkes, chairman and CEO of HBO, intones, "In my 22 years at HBO, I've never been prouder of any program we've produced."

With Guiliani as guide, "In Memoriam" follows the mayor and his staff from their first realization about what was occurring, through despair and tears, to a newfound strength from which emerged the spirit of a new United States.

The film includes visual material that has never been seen before, from the still and video cameras of more than 100 people who were eyewitnesses to the tragic events of the day.

### 'Hangad a Capella'

On June 23, the album, "Hangad a Capella," will be launched at the Oratorio of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The latest release of the Jesuit Music Ministry, the album is a celebration of Jesuit music, and brings together various artists who harmonize in joyful exultation, as they give glory to God.

Why *a capella*? Sung without musical accompaniment, familiar religious songs by Jesuit composers "are suddenly fresh, through the use of creative vocal arrangements and innovative styles," the album's foreword observes.

The cuts are: "Papuri," "Panalangin sa Pagiging Bukas-Palad," "Pilgrim's Theme," "Kahanga-Hanga," "Pastoral," "Inay," "Anima Christi," "Kapuri-puri Ka," "Paghahandog," "Pangi-noon, Aking Tanglaw," "You Are Near," "Sabay sa Ihip ng Hangin," "Sa Diyos Lamang Mapapanatag," "Ang Puso Ko'y Nagpupuri," and "Gabii."

### Thanksgiving party

For more than a decade now, Dr. Vicki Belo's Medical Group has been at the forefront of cosmetic dermatology practice in the Philippines, with a long list of celebrity and non-celebrity clients raving about its services. To thank her patients at her Tomas Morato clinic. Dr. Belo hosted a part at Ratsky's.

Boy Abunda hosted the evening's entertainment. It began with a surprise guest claiming to be Dr. Belo, who later turned out to be comedian-impersonator John Lapus. Next, Boy and Vicki discussed their latest "findings" on love and life.

Dr. Belo then talked about the latest in cosmetic dermatology and answered questions about her clinic's many services, some of which were demonstrated for the audience—Obagi products, restylane, botox treatment, sclerotherapy, laser treatment, breast augmentation, laser liposuction, and the new Hydrogel and Aptos Thread methods.

To the excitement of the female guests, the Hunks went onstage and performed live! Piolo Pascual, Diether Ocampo, Bernard Palanca and Carlo Agassi also got Dr. Belo to sing along with them.

Other celebrity guests included Lorna Tolentino, Paolo Bediones, Carlo Muñoz, Kris Aquino, Roselle Nava, Tintin Bersola and Julius Babao.

'HANGAD.' A celebration of Jesuit music.

DR. VICKI Belo with The Hunks (below).

JACKIELOU Blanco (center) opens SNACK 2002 exhibit with other special guests.

### Single Moms' Adventure Camp with Kids

SNACK (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids) was started in 1999 by entertainment journalist and artists' manager Bibsy Carballo. She wanted children 7 to 13 years old to appreciate nature and the outdoor life.

SNACK kids live in tents for five days at Taal Yacht Club and are given primers on outdoor sports and the arts.

Recently, the SNACK 2002 exhibit of Konika winning photos, drawing, tie-dyes and pottery was opened at Museo Pambata by Jackielou Blanco, who taught taebo aerobics last summer.

Winners of the SNACK-Konika photo contest were awarded cameras and film by Konika, plus overnight stays at Matabungkay Beach Resort and Sitio Lucia Bulacan Resorts through the Department of tourism.

Last summer's SNACK was the eighth camp in four years. From Nov. 1 to 3, Bibsy will be holding the first bonding camp for single mothers and their kids, called SMACK (Single Moms' Adventure Camp with Kids). Call 721-0801 or 726-7164.

ALBUM REVIEWS

# Musical insights on life and love

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

'A WALK to Remember' soundtrack.

**Satellite**
*P.O.D.*
*Warner Music*

IF you're a musician and you dig unique chord progressions, you'll love this album. It's experimental and cool! But if you'd rather listen to an album that you can relate to, better skip this one.

The album has good hooks and the guys play well but the melodies should have been simpler.

### Emptiness

"Set It Off" and "Ridiculous" give you a feeling of hopelessness. The lyrics "*All bark and no bite, talking all hype. I hang with the illest. You I don't recognize*" are full of exhaustion, emptiness and loneliness.

They give you a sense that these guys are merely existing and not living.

"Boom" and "Youth of the Nation" make you question why you're doing what you're doing. Is it because you love it, or because you've fallen into a safe routine? So if you're having a bad week, cover your ears and ignore these songs.

"Anything Right" is about learning from the past and living in the present. It urges you to enjoy the journey instead of being anxious about the steps you're going to take to get there.

"Satellite" is about escaping the drudgery of life by staring at the satellite. There's a metaphor or deep meaning somewhere in the song but I guess I'm just too dense to figure it out . . .

### Basic values

"The Messenjah" is one of those songs that really make you think. The lyrics "*truth shines, back again two times in the second coming. I am the messenjah. This I pledge, I'll take it to my death, I'll lay my life down for you*" make you question your basic values.

**'A Walk To Remember' soundtrack**
*Sony Music*

"Someday We'll Know" speaks about being with the "right one" and the urgency of telling him that he's "the one." Loving someone is a risk and finding the right one is worth the gamble.

"Cry" is a break-up song. The lyrics will milk away all your heartaches and frustrations. It imparts emotional pain and the sacrifice one has to undergo after losing someone. With complete abandon, Mandy sings her heart out and instills a sense of loneliness with each word she sings.

"Learning to Breathe" by Switchfoot almost makes you visualize bodies moving in unison to the song.

### Soothing

"Only Hope" is soothing and mushy. It's emotional but not overbearing. It's laidback but drives home a point.

"Dancing in the Moonlight" is about making the slow transition from being friends to romantic partners. It shows how a guy makes his "*diskarte*," and how the girl slowly reciprocates.

If you want to get musical insights on love, life, attention and confidence, grab this soundtrack.


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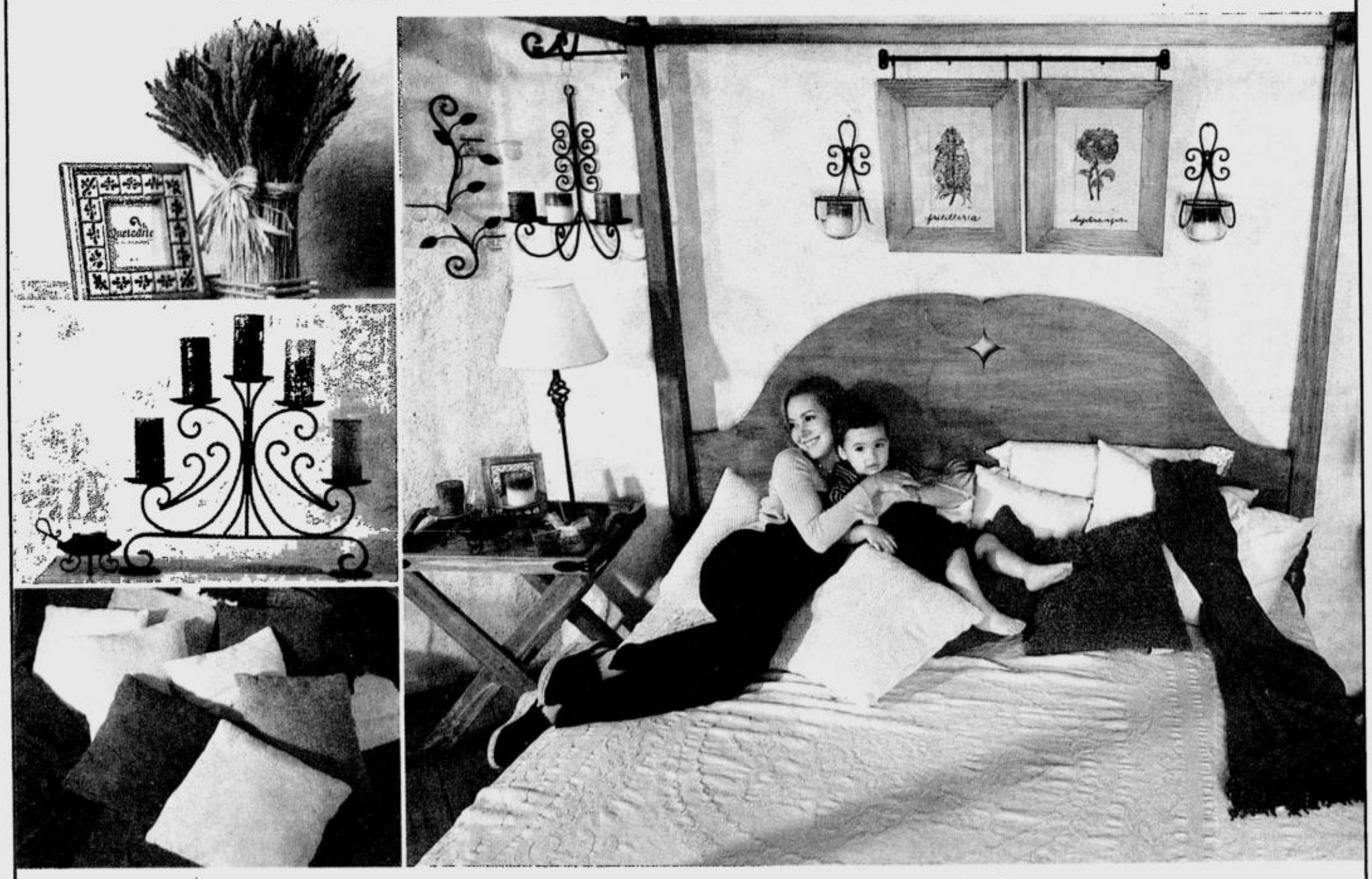

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# Film stars find success on the legitimate stage

WHILE Gwyneth Paltrow and Matt Damon scored thespic points during their London stage turns, Madonna got either lukewarm or scathing reviews for her performance in "Up for Grabs," this despite ensuring robust ticket sales at the box-office.

**Rigorous rehearsals**

Popular actors, regardless of the theater's minimal remuneration for rigorous rehearsals and demanding live performances, count on these occasional ventures into the legitimate stage to play challenging roles that their more financially-rewarding day jobs in show biz can't give.

**SHOW BIZ Q & A**

*Rito P. Asilo*

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show biz Q&A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

**"I truly enjoyed your piece on movie actors taking on roles in theater productions. Can you share more stories—perhaps, about actors who won critical acclaim for their stage performances?"—*Anna Lisa Marciano, South Cotabato.***

The London stage has the Laurence Olivier Awards for distinguished accomplishment in theater. Broadway has the Tony Awards (named after actress/director Antoinette Perry), which began 56 years ago (1947). When we checked out present and previous winners of the Tonys for the last 25 years, we were surprised by the staggeringly impressive list of film stars who won acting statuettes for their stage performances:

**Alan Bates**

Alan Bates, 2002 Best Actor in a Play ("Fortune's Fool"), bested Liam Neeson ("The Crucible"); John Lithgow ("Sweet Smell of Success"); Vanessa Williams ("Into the Woods"); Mary Louise Parker ("Proof") defeated Juliette Binoche ("Betrayal"); Robert Sean Leonard won for "The Invention of Love;"

Nathan Lane ("The Producers," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"); Brian Dennehy ("Death of a Salesman"); Judi Dench ("Amy's View"); Martin Short ("Little Me"); Bernadette Peters ("Annie Get Your Gun"); Alan Cumming and Natasha Richardson ("Cabaret"); Christopher Plummer ("Barrymore"); Ralph Fiennes ("Hamlet"); John Glover ("Love! Valor! Compassion!") beat Jude Law ("Indiscretions");

Matthew Broderick ("How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying," "Brighton Beach Memoirs"); Glenn Close ("Sunset Blvd.," "Barnum," "Death and the Maiden," "The Real Thing"); Diana Rigg ("Medea") won over Joan Rivers ("Sally Merr and Her Secrets"); Alec Baldwin ("Streetcar Named Desire"); Jennifer Holliday ("Dreamgirls"); Kevin Spacey ("Lost in Yonkers"); Jonathan Pryce and Lea Salonga ("Miss Saigon");

Dustin Hoffman ("Merchant of Venice"); Kathleen Turner ("Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"); Michael Crawford ("Phantom of the Opera"); James Earl Jones ("Fences"); Lily Tomlin ("Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe"); Jeremy Irons ("The Real Thing"); Kevin Kline ("On the 20th Century," "Pirates of Penzance"); Lauren Bacall ("Woman of the Year") and Liza Minnelli ("The Act")

**Other nominees**

Other nominees: former model Twiggy ("My One and Only"); Sigourney Weaver and William Hurt ("Hurly Burly"); Kathy Bates ("'Night, Mother"); Ian McKellen ("Ian McKellen Acting Shakespeare"); Annette Bening ("Coastal Disturbance"); Frances McDormand ("Streetcar Named Desire"); Joan Allen ("Burn This"); Eartha Kitt ("Timbuktu");

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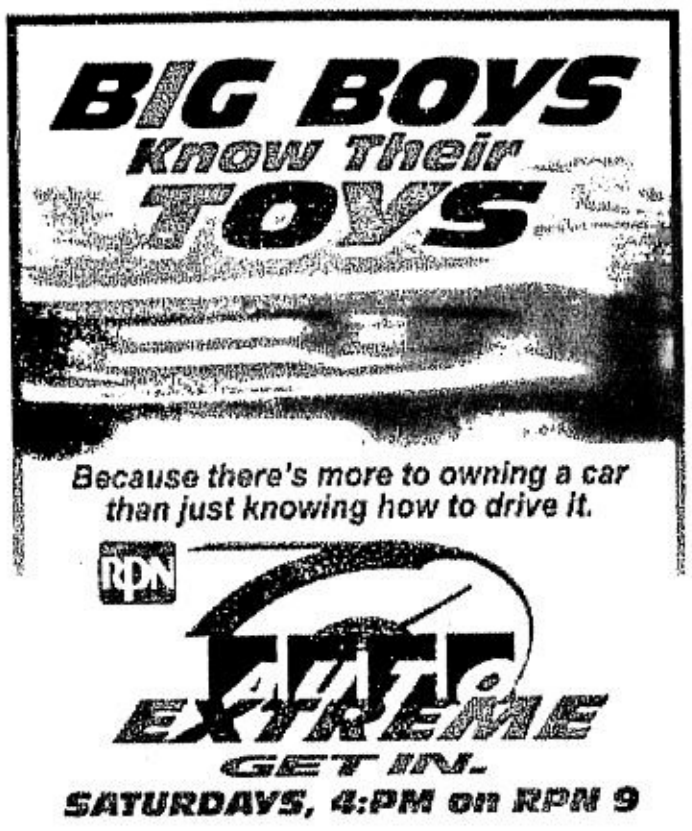
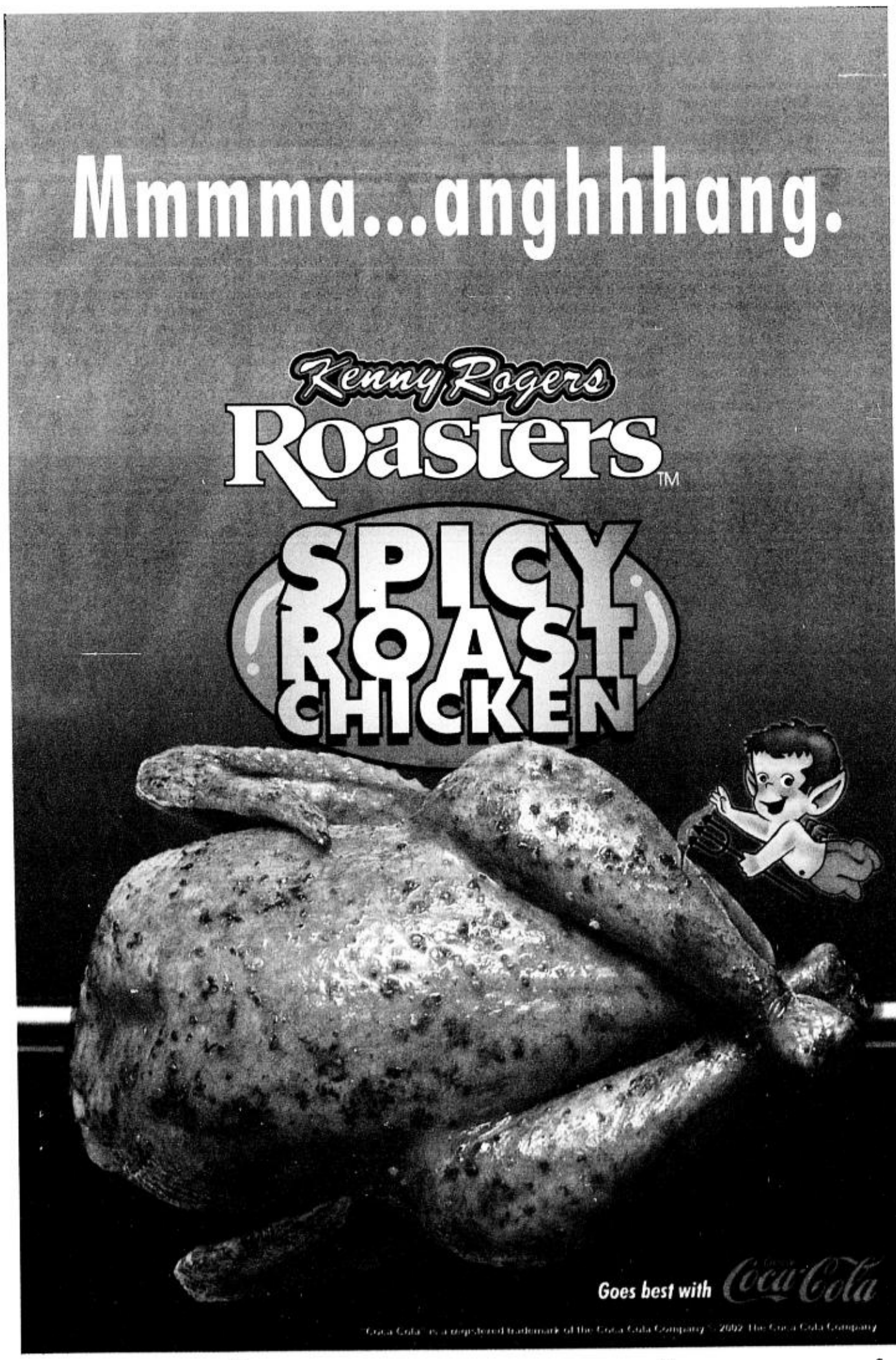
CHRISTENSEN. Discovered at age seven.

# Jolina Magdangal energizes 'The Working President'

By Nestor U. Torre

MAGDANGAL. Her popularity wasn't the only factor that worked in her favor.

JOLINA with Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable.

WHAT'S kooky TV-film star and trendsetter Jolina Magdangal doing in front of a logo of Malacañang Palace, with a Philippine flag at her side? No, Jolina isn't shooting a movie where she's playing President Arroyo's well-liked daughter Luli, she has been tapped to host the chief executive's reformatted TV program, "The Working President."

### Activities

The longrunning program (it's been on the tube since the presidency of Corazon Aquino) features the activities of the current president, as well as the projects of the administration. Important stuff, but not very exciting, right?

To perk things up, Jolina has been invited to host the program. The move has raised some questions: Why a teenybopper idol like Jolina? Won't the show's "importance" be diminished? Won't Jolina's own career and image suffer due to this new, "somber" involvement? Some responses:

Why Jolina? It turns out that Jolina is no longer just a teen idol. In fact, she's already in her 20s, and has involved herself in a wide range of humanitarian and civic activities. She was even tasked to act as a National Youth Advocate in 1998.

Clearly, there's more to the "wacky" star than meets the lazy eye. Her heart is not just in show biz, but also in other people's welfare, particularly the youth.

### Popularity

In fact, it turns out that Jolina's popularity wasn't the sole factor that prompted the decision to ask her to host "The Working President."

First, Malacañang commissioned an advertising agency to conduct a survey to determine the "most preferred" personality in the country today—and Jolina's name came out on top. Subsequent research further bolstered the view that Jolina was a genuine role model for the youth, hence a good choice to host the weekly coverage of the president's activities.

A big plus was the fact that Jolina's presence on the show would entice young viewers not just to watch the program, but also to interest themselves in the president's public service endeavors—and, hopefully, in serving the public in their own way themselves.

### More relevant

Wouldn't the show's importance be diminished by her presence? Not at all. After all, she didn't plan on turning the program into a bright, shallow entertainment piece, she was just using her popularity and accessibility to young viewers to make the show more relevant to the millions of children and young-adults who make up the majority of the country's population.

Finally, wouldn't Jolina's sudden "seriousness" on the program adversely affect her own career? Not likely, because fans would understand that this is just one new aspect of her activities, most of which would remain securely entertainment-based.

Jolina admits that her decision to host "The Working President" wasn't easy to make. "We had to consult various people who had a stake in my career, including my fans, Happily, the results were very encouraging," she beams.

### Opportunity

Speaking more personally, she shares why she agreed to host the show: "This is an opportunity to learn more about public affairs and government service. I have long wanted to help bring the entertainment industry and the youth closer to the president, and at the same time to make our people aware of the government's thrusts and direction. By accepting this assignment, I hope to help achieve these objectives."

Where will this new development in Jolina's career lead? Some people surmise that this indicates that politics is in the young star's future plans. For now, however, the important thing for Jolina to do is to be effective in her new role on "The Working President."

For proof positive, you can view the one-hour show at 7 p.m., every Friday on NBN-4; at 8 a.m. on Saturday on ANC 21; and at 10 a.m. on Tuesday on RPN-9.

# Search for those elusive Academy Awards

By Behn Cervantes

DAVIS. Hated most of the roles foisted on her by her home studio.

DURING the reign of the big studios during Hollywood's heyday and golden years, many contract stars were unhappy over the quality of the roles they were forced to play on the big screen.

### Autocratic studio bosses

Bette Davis, considered one the queens of drama, hated most of the roles foisted upon her by Warner Brothers. She felt they were below par, and not worthy of her talent and increasing expertise in the art of cinematic acting. Because she refused to accept some of these horrid roles, the autocratic studio bosses suspended her.

It was not until young Olivia de Havilland dared challenge the studios' whims and won her case in court that things started to change. She went on to win Oscars for "To Each His Own" and "The Heiress."

Ambitious Joan Crawford went through the same thespic hell at M-G-M until she was unceremoniously given the heaveho by the ungrateful studio. Ironically, she won the much-coveted Academy Award for "Mildred Pierce," a role turned down by rival Bette. Crawford had talked Warner Brothers producer Jerry Wald into assigning her the role rather than hand it over to Barbara Stanwyck, another dramatic heavy at Warner Brothers.

### Ready supply

Good scripts were hard to come by. Since the studios had to have a ready supply of films, they exploited their contract stars by giving them roles unworthy of their tested talents. The bad films often affected the stars' box-office standing because the disgruntled audience reacted negatively to such inferior material. Ironically, the actors were blamed for the box-office flops.

Greta Garbo, considered the greatest film star of them all, never won an Oscar, although she is forever remembered for her performances in "Camille," "Ninotcka," "Grand Hotel" and "Queen Christina."

Charlie Chaplin, John Barrymore, Bob Hope and Cary Grant are other Hollywood icons who never marched up to the podium to receive the elusive Oscar. Judy Garland almost made it for the remake of "A Star Is Born" but was disappointed when Hollywood instead gave the award to then Golden Girl Grace Kelly for "A Country Girl."

Years later, she was disappointed once more when she didn't get a Best Supporting Actress statuette for her gripping performance in "Judgement at Nuremberg."

Screen toughie James Cagney, an actor known for his portrayals of gangsters, won the coveted award as George M. Cohan in the musical "Yankee Doodle Dandy," while Edward G. Robinson, recognized for his consistently fine performances as a toughie, never even got a nomination.

Alan Ladd, best known for "Shane," never managed a nomination, either, despite an aggressive manger-wife, Sue Carol, who assertively looked after his interests.

### Rivalry

Because of the rivalry over juicy roles, it was indeed an achievement for contract stars to manage even a nomination. Therefore, greatly respected actresses like Irene Dunne, Rosalind Russell, Barbara Stanwyck and Deborrah Kerr are known for their many nominations—but, alas, no wins. The controversial Richard Burton is also an actor with many nominations, but no wins.

Henry Fonda, the grand patriarch of *that* acting family, only won his Academy Award on his deathbed and largely because of sentimentalism, as well as the active campaign mounted by his daughter Jane, who also produced "On Golden Pond" for her father. His was a career that spanned six decades!

John Wayne's career was equally long but the Duke only managed a solitary Oscar for "True Grit." Screen favorite Gary Cooper won two awards for "Sergeant York" and "High Noon." His career was as distinguished as Spencer Tracey's, who won two consecutive Oscars for "Captains Courageous" in 1937 and "Boys' Town" in 1938.

An acting rival but deep admirer ("I'm crazy about Tracy"), Fredrich March, garnered two Oscars for "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" in 1931 and "The Best Years Of Our Lives" in 1946. *(To be concluded)*

# Film stars find . . . From p. C3

Linda Ronstadt (The Pirates of Penzance"); Elizabeth Taylor ("The Little Foxes");

Katharine Hepburn ("West Side Waltz"); Morgan Freeman ("The Mighty Gents"); Eric Stlotz ("Our Town"); Mikhail Baryshnikov ("Metamorphoses"); Lou Diamond Phillips (King and I"); Gabriel Byrne ("A Moon for the Misbegotten"); Gary Sinise ("One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") and Christopher Walken ("James Joyce's The Dead").

Barbra Streisand was nominated for "Funny Girl" (1964) and for "I Can Get It For You Wholesale" (1962) but didn't get a Tony until she was given a special award in 1970. The movie version of "Funny Girl," though, gave her her first Oscar.

**"We are admirers of 'Star Wars' Hayden Christensen. Any trivia on him? Where do we write him?"—*Salesladies at Navicom Enterprises.***

Hayden Christensen is not really a newcomer to the acting trade. He broke into acting in an unusual way: He was discovered at age seven when an older sister, a Junior World Trampoline champion, did a commercial for Pringles. "Since no one was there to babysit me," he recalls, "I went with her and they asked me if I wanted to do commercials."

### Guest and featured roles

This led to a role in Canada's first TV soap opera, "Family Passions" (1993). His other TV appearances included guest and featured roles in "Harrison Bergeron," "Street Law," "Free Fall," "Trapped in Purple Haze," and Fox's "Higher Ground," among others.

On the big screen, he was in Sofia Coppola's "The Virgin Suicides;" "Strike," John Carpenter's "In the Mouth of Madness" and "Life as A House," from which he was nominated for a Golden Globe.

Video shops here also carry the five-hanky small screen adaptation of Danielle Steel's "No Greater Love" (1996) and the controversial "Love and Betrayal: The Mia Farrow Story." Other than "Episode 3," you can look forward to seeing Christensen next in Griffin Dunne's "Nailed Right In," with Leelee Sobieski.

The 6'1" Canadian, born on April 19, 1981, beat more than 400 actors, including Leonardo di Caprio and Joshua Jackson, for the role of the teenage Anakin because George Lucas thought he had raw talent and had more sexual chemistry with Natalie Portman.

For fan mail, we suggest you write to: 10960 Wilshire blvd., Los Angeles, California, USA; The Gersch Agency, 232 N. Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, Ca 90210, USA. Or c/o Dani Delio Talent Agency, 1357 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON, Canada MSR 348. Or Star Wars Fan Club, P.O. Box 11100, Aurora, Ca, USA 80042.

## YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JUNE 22 - JUNE 28

| CH | 7 | 41 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 13 | 23 | 29 | 31 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan<br>7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba?<br>7:30 Arriba, Arriba<br>8:30 Mary d' Poller<br>9:30 Klasmeyts<br>10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan<br>11:00 "F"<br>11:30 Sports Unlimited | 3:00 Value Vision<br>6:00 MBA<br>11:00 Business and Leisure | 6:30 Wing Commander<br>7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Celebrity Family Feud<br>8:30 Wow Mali!<br>9:30 Saturday Night | 5:30 Hunter X Hunter<br>6:00 Imbestigador<br>7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap<br>8:00 Kakabakaba<br>9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster<br>11:00 Master Showman | 6:00 Entertainment Tonite<br>6:30 Hot Ticket<br>7:00 Largo<br>8:00 7 Days<br>9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse<br>*Star Olympics Part I* | 6:00 Star For A Night<br>9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?<br>10:00 Viva Box Office<br>11:00 IBC Elorde | 6:00 Travel Time<br>6:30 Digital Tour<br>7:00 Explorer<br>7:30 Early Edition<br>8:30 Gilmore Girls<br>9:30 Studio 23 Presents | 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special<br>9:00 Oras Ng Kalotohanan<br>9:30 Armor of God<br>10:00 On Tokyo<br>11:00 Pinoy Wrestling | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 El Coming Attractions<br>7:00 Women of . . .*Primetime Crime*<br>8:00 El True Hollywood Story<br>*All in the Family*<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Celebrity Profile<br>*Jon Bon Jovi* |
| | 5:30 Sharon<br>7:00 Wansapanataym<br>8:30 Home Along Da Riles<br>9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas<br>11:30 Off The Record<br>12:00 The Weekend News | 6:00 Fox News<br>9:00 NBA<br>11:30 Unlimited Diving | 6:00 Zorro<br>6:30 Guylerd<br>7:00 Price Is Right<br>8:00 Sing-Galing<br>9:00 The Big Night<br>11:00 Fashion TV | 5:30 Partners Mel & Jay<br>7:00 Ki<br>8:00 Daddy Di Do Du<br>9:00 Sunday Night Box Office<br>11:00 Che-Che Lazaro Presents | 6:00 Entertainment This Weekend<br>7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not<br>8:00 Match TV<br>9:00 Sunday's Big Event<br>*Highlander*<br>11:00 *Pops on Tour Part II* | 4:00 PBA Game 1<br>6:00 PBA Game 2<br>8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?<br>9:00 Sinemaks | 6:00 Rugrats<br>6:30 Starship Troopers<br>7:00 Batman Beyond<br>7:30 Futurama<br>8:00 Grosse Pointe<br>8:30 Veronica's Closet<br>9:00 Will & Grace<br>9:30 Temptation Island<br>10:30 Twilight Zone | 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series<br>8:00 On Tokyo<br>9:00 Sunday Night movies | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 El Coming Attractions<br>7:00 El Original Special<br>8:00 Rank *Sitcoms We Secretly Love*<br>9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner<br>*Carrie Wilson*<br>10:00 El Goes to War<br>*In Love and War* |
| | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 FPJ Action Cinema<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 The Correspondents | 4:00 PBL<br>6:00 Fox News<br>8:00 TeleDyaryo<br>10:00 PBL | 6:00 Bahtang-Bahtal<br>6:30 F<br>7:00 Mahna Go Go Go<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy<br>9:30 Trabaho Lang<br>10:00 The Big News | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 GMAs Best<br>10:30 Front Page | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos<br>8:00 Jag<br>9:00 24<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Entertainment tonight<br>11:00 Sex & The City | 6:00 Viva's Hot Hits!<br>8:00 Crayon Shin Chan<br>8:30 Kurochan<br>9:00 The Weakest Link<br>10:00 Carita de Angel<br>10:30 Por Un Beso<br>11:00 News | 5:30 Beat UK<br>6:30 Jonny Jones<br>7:30 Hidden Camera<br>8:00 Dark Angel<br>9:00 Charmed<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Points of View | 6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan<br>8:00 Q Showcase<br>9:00 Ang Daling Daan | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 El News Live<br>7:00 Celebrity Adventures<br>8:00 El True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 El News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 Best of Late Show<br>11:00 Wild On<br>*Ibiza 2002* |
| | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 OK Fine! Whatever<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 Pipol | 4:00 Value Vision<br>6:00 Fox News<br>8:00 TeleDyaryo<br>10:00 Putsong Masa<br>11:00 Auto Focus | 6:00 Bahtang-Bahtal<br>6:30 Dragon League<br>7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 E.R.<br>9:30 Urban Doktor<br>10:00 The Big News | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 Kool Ka Lang<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:00 Probe Team | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 Ed<br>8:00 Ally McBeal<br>9:00 The Practice<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Entertainment tonight<br>11:00 NBI Files | 6:00 PBA Games<br>8:00 PBA Games<br>10:00 The Weakest Link<br>11:00 News | 5:30 Beat UK<br>6:30 Jonny Jones<br>7:30 Popular<br>8:30 Angel<br>9:00 Just Shoot Me<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah | 6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan<br>8:00 Ang Daling Daan | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 El News Live<br>7:00 Extreme Close Up<br>7:30 Mysteries & Scandals<br>8:00 El True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 El News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Wild On *A List* |
| | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 Whattamen<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 Private Conversation | 4:00 PBL<br>6:00 Fox News<br>8:00 TeleDyaryo<br>10:00 PBL | 6:00 Bahtang-Bahtal<br>6:30 Pygmalio<br>7:00 Time Quest<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 Friends<br>9:00 Trail's 70's Show<br>9:30 Planet X<br>10:00 The Big News | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 Ben Bote Nga<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:00 Jessica Soho Reports | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 Higher Ground<br>8:00 Roswell<br>9:00 Fugitive<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Entertainment tonight<br>11:00 Wrestling | 6:00 Kagat Ng Dilim<br>8:00 Crayon Shin Chan<br>8:30 Kurochan<br>9:00 The Weakest Link<br>10:00 Carita de Angel<br>10:30 Por Un Beso<br>11:00 News | 5:30 Behind the Music<br>6:30 Jenny Jones<br>7:30 Scariest Places on Earth<br>8:30 Game Plan<br>9:00 The District<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah | 6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan<br>8:00 Q Showcase<br>9:00 Ang Daling Daan<br>10:30 Q Showcase | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 El News Live<br>7:00 Behind The Scenes<br>7:30 Mysteries & Scandals<br>8:00 El True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 El News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Wild On *West* |
| | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 Isyu 101 | 4:00 Value Vision<br>5:00 Patrol 117<br>6:00 Concert at the Park<br>7:00 Fox News<br>8:00 TeleDyaryo<br>10:00 NBA | 6:00 Bahtang-Bahtal<br>6:30 Shutalo<br>7:00 Fancy Lala<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 Guinness World Records<br>9:30 The Exchange<br>10:00 The Big News<br>10:30 By Request | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 Daboy an Da Girl<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 Clueless<br>7:30 Sister, Sister<br>8:00 Felicity<br>9:00 Once and Again<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Entertainment Tonight | 6:00 PBA Games<br>8:00 PBA Games<br>9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire<br>11:00 News | 5:30 MYX Concerts<br>6:30 Jonny Jones<br>7:30 Barkada Nights<br>9:30 Night Visions<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah | 6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan<br>8:00 Q Showcase<br>9:00 Ang Daling Daan<br>10:30 Q Showcase | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 El News Live<br>7:00 Extreme Close Ups<br>7:30 Mysteries & Scandals<br>8:00 El True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 El News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Wild On *Windy City* |
| | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 Star Cinema Presents<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 True Crime | 4:00 PBL<br>6:00 Paco Park Presents<br>7:00 Fox News<br>8:00 TeleDyaryo<br>10:00 PBL | 6:00 Bahtang-Bahtal<br>6:30 Lazer Patrol<br>7:00 Starcom<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 Ispup<br>9:30 On-Air<br>10:00 The Big News<br>10:30 Friday Box Office | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 Bubbis Gang<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:00 Emergency | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 That's Life<br>8:00 Malcolm In The Middle<br>8:30 Dharma & Greg<br>9:00 NYPD Blue<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 TV Greats On Friday | 6:00 Crayon Shin Chan<br>8:30 Kurochan<br>9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire<br>10:00 Carita da Angel<br>10:30 Por Un Beso<br>11:00 News | 5:30 Halo-Halo<br>6:30 Jenny Jones<br>7:30 Exposed<br>8:30 Survivor<br>9:00 On Grow Up!!<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah | 6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Kalotohanan<br>8:00 Ang Daling Daan | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 El News Live<br>7:00 Behind The Scenes<br>7:30 Mysteries & Scandals<br>8:00 El True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 El News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Wild On *New Zealand* |

# SAG president Melissa Gilbert prepares for tough role

By Gary Gentile

LOS ANGELES—Screen Actors Guild president Melissa Gilbert is matter of fact about the challenges of leading a fractious union as it grapples with the changing economics of the global entertainment industry.

### Irregularities

"Nothing, nothing in this building comes easily," said Gilbert, who became president of SAG four months ago after two contentious election battles with actress Valerie Harper. The first election was rerun because of ballot irregularities.

Gilbert's fight with Harper was just a warm-up for the issues she faces as union head. The biggest is runaway production—the exodus of film and television making to Canada, Australia and other countries that is costing the union thousands of jobs and compromising its clout.

A report prepared for SAG and the Directors Guild of America in 1999 concluded that filming in other countries cost the US economy $2.8 billion. The ripple effect, including money that would have been spent at restaurants, hotels and other businesses, plus the tax revenue that would have generated, brought the cost of lost production to $10.3 billion.

### Major economic issue

"It has become such an epidemic and such a major economic issue for the country as a whole," Gilbert said.

One consequence of actors working in other countries under non-SAG contracts is that production companies often are not required to make contributions to the union's health insurance and pension fund. SAG estimates that since 1997, the fund has been deprived of $23 million in contributions because of nonunion work outside the United States.

To shore up the fund and help curb the flight of jobs overseas, SAG has extended the reach of its rule mandating that members work under union contracts. That rule has always applied to work done in the United States; as of May 1, it now applies globally.

Penalties for actors who violate the rule range from reprimand to ouster from the union in extreme cases. Enforcement, which would fall to Gilbert, could lead to high-profile disciplining of major stars while putting SAG at odds with major studios that have insisted the union's authority doesn't extend beyond US borders. On top of it all, actors could find themselves in a conflict in which the agents who are supposed to protect their interests can also be their employers.

The situation was created when union members overwhelmingly rejected a contract regulating the relationship between actors and talent agents—a contract Gilbert strongly supported. Now, agents are free to invest in production companies or advertising agencies that employ actors.

### Quarrelsome membership

At the heart of Gilbert's challenge is a quarrelsome membership of 98,000 actors. A handful earn millions of dollars for a single movie, but most are unemployed much of the year.

"This kind of discrepancy is unique. I don't know of any other union in the country that is like it," said William Daniels, who served as SAG president from 1999 to 2001. "When you're making $20 million per picture, sometimes you don't even know where your union headquarters is."

Because of the difficulty in finding acting work, SAG members tend to hold a variety of jobs, supporting themselves as waiters or accountants between gigs.

In recent years, the union has had to deal with its share of labor disputes.

A six-month strike by US commercial actors in 2000 brought filming of television commercials to a halt. Much of that production went overseas and has not returned.

### Threat of strikes

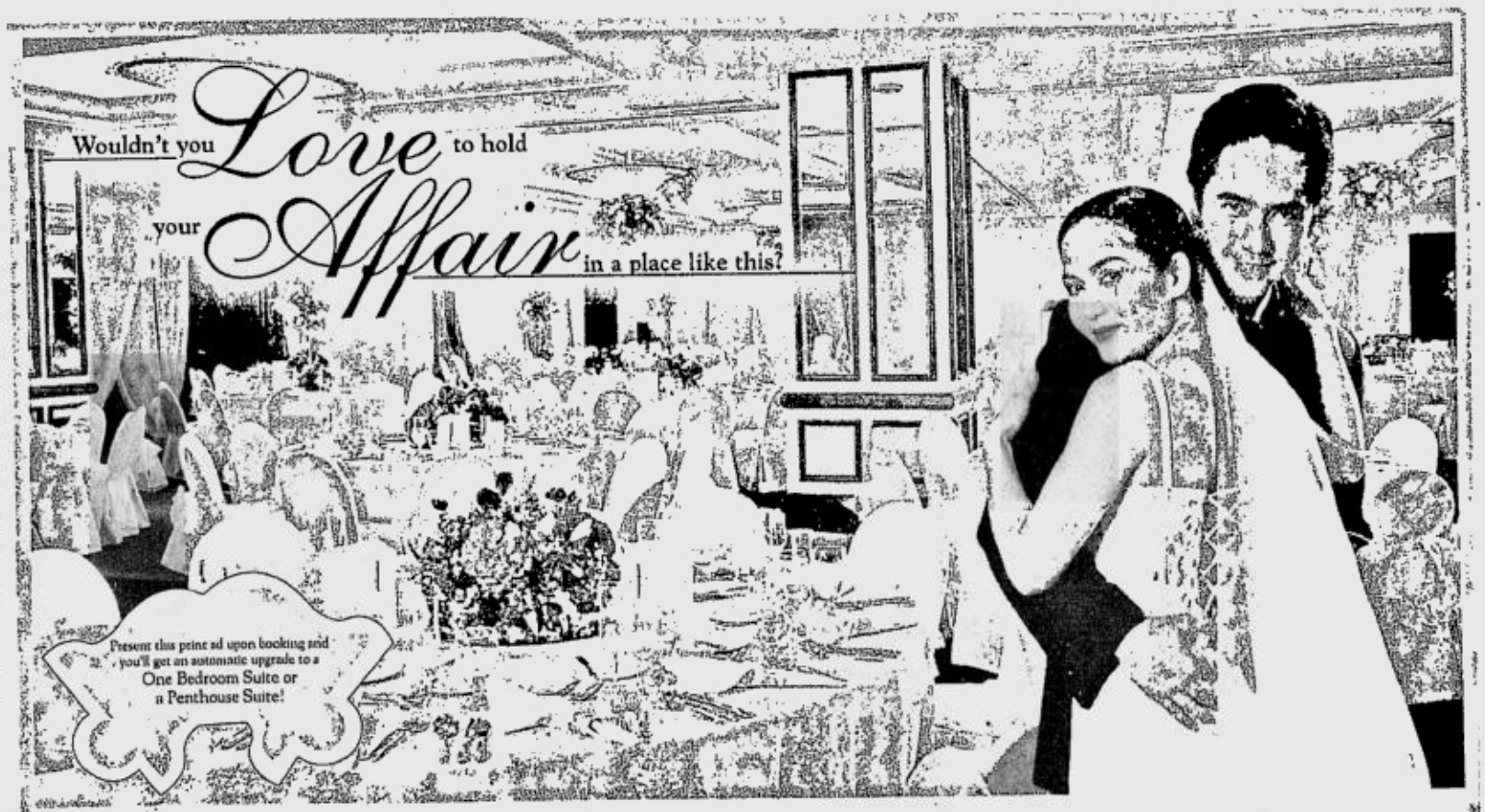
In 2001, the threat of strikes by actors and writers forced major studios to accelerate production of feature films. The strikes were averted, but the subsequent lull because of an oversupply of movies put a lot of entertainment industry employees temporarily out of work.

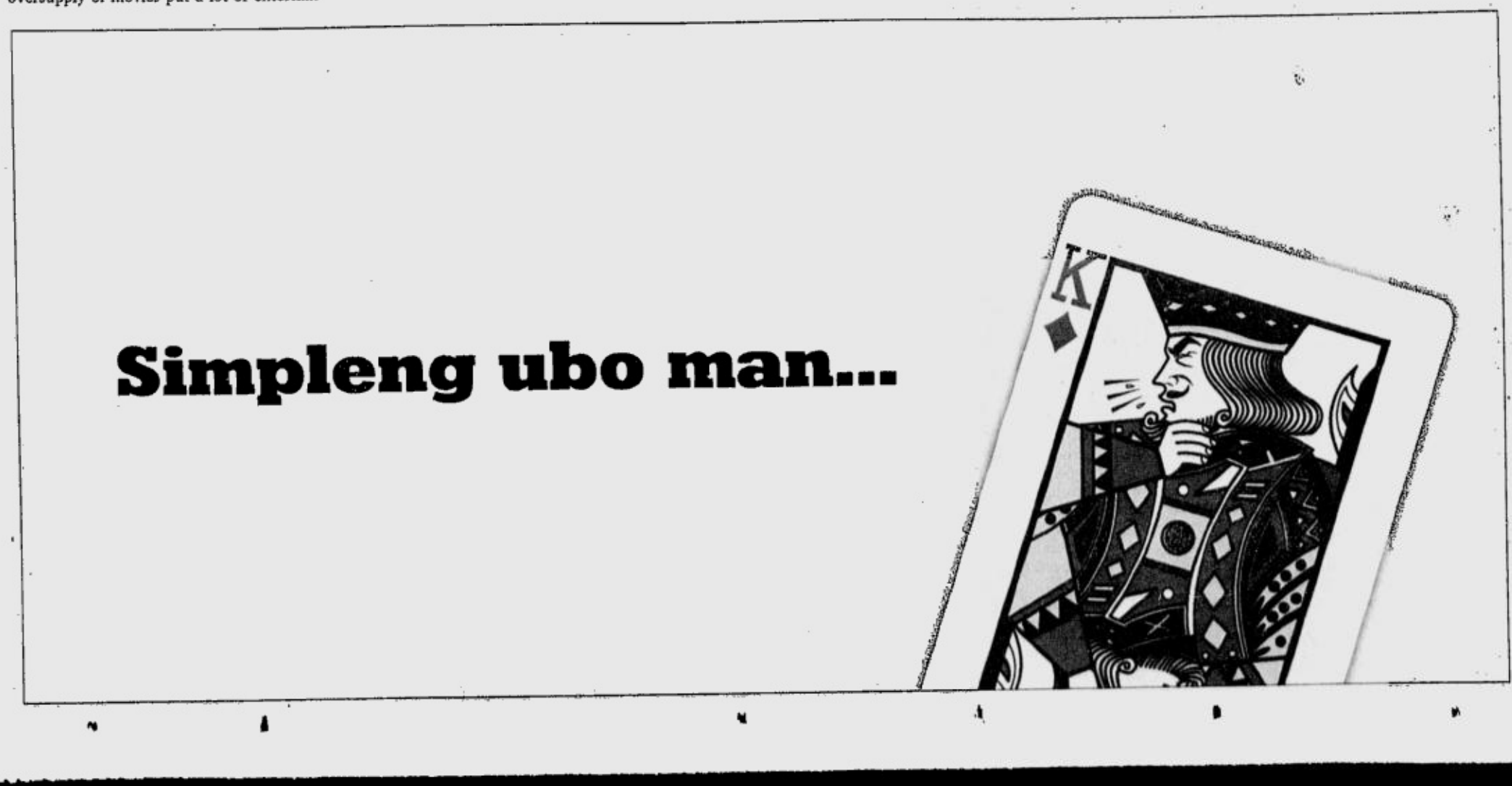
As it contends with runaway production, SAG is negotiating with studios film by film and recently reached agreements with Warner Bros., Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Paramount to honor SAG contracts on films being shot in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Meanwhile, in its dealings with agents, SAG is working to bring individual state laws in line with the previous agreement to avoid commission hikes and unfair labor practices.

*AP*

**GILBERT. Ready to face the challenges of leading a fractious union as it grapples with the changing economics of the global entertainment industry.**



# Ian Veneracion and Mark Anthony Fernandez act in their first soap opera

By Jocelyn Valle

IAN Veneracion is acting in his first soap opera. He's been tapped to be a regular talent in various drama series but his heart wasn't in any of those proposals. "*Importante kasi sa akin 'yung* character *na ipo*-portray *ko*," he points out.

Ditto for Mark Anthony Fernandez. He's got the time now to focus on his work. "I was busy doing other things *kasi*," he explains.

### Latest additions

Ian and Mark are the latest additions (the others are Charlie Davao, Patricia Javier, Jennifer Sevilla and Sarsi Emmanuel) to the cast of Channel 7's teledrama, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin." Together, they complicate the already convoluted life of Katherine (the soap's main character played by Angelika dela Cruz).

Mark likes the action-suspense element that his role (as Lorenzo, who's hired to kill Katherine but ends up falling for her) brings to the soap. "He's bad but the audience will find him hard to hate," he remarks of his small-screen alter ego. "*May* explanation *kasi kung bakit siya ganoon.*"

The only child of actors Rudy Fernandez and Alma Moreno points out that he's a lot different from his TV character. "I'm just a regular guy who's gone through some ups and downs," he shrugs.

Ian plays the older brother of Mark who's the most trusted by their dad (the greedy *haciendero* portrayed by Charlie Davao). "He's neither good nor bad, and that interested me to accept the project," he shares.

### Reruns

Unlike Mark, who enjoyed watching "Dynasty" when a local TV station was still airing its reruns, and looks forward to "Eat Bulaga's" yearly Lenten drama specials, Ian admits he isn't a fan of soap operas. Instead, he's into sitcoms like "Friends," "Frasier" and "King of Queens."

FERNANDEZ. Regular guy.

VENERACION. Soccer fan.

Ian says that his stint on the '80s sitcom, "Joey and Son," has influenced him. Speaking of his old TV program, the former child star shares that he's saved a few copies of some "Joey and Son's" episodes, but he rarely watches them now. "Betamax format *pa kasi sila*," he chuckles.

Recently, though, he saw one of his old movies on cable TV. "*Wala lang*," he smiles, when asked how he felt seeing himself as a tyke. "*Para kasing hindi ako 'yun.*"

On the other hand, Mark is entertained whenever he gets to watch an old episode of "Palibahasa Lalaki" or one of the Gwapings' starrers. "*Nakakatuwa*," he exclaims. "*Nare*-remind *ako ng pagiging* childlike *ko*. As in those days, I still get excited to report to work."

### Younger self

Seeing his younger self, says Mark, makes him realize that he should have gone to his orthodontist much earlier. "*Na*-fix *sana kaagad ang* teeth *ko*," he sighs.

From being TV comedians and movie heartthrobs, both Ian and Mark eventually shifted to the action genre. At 15, Ian was launched in "Alyas Babyface," and later acted in other action flicks. (On TV, though, he gets to do comedy and drama.)

Mark's last two starrers, "Biyaheng Langit" and "Dos Ekis," were rife with fight scenes. He wants to follow in his action-star father's footsteps, he smiles.

Ian and Mark share a passion for sports. Ian was part of his school's soccer varsity team. Whenever he can, he watches the World Cup games to root for his favorite team, Brazil.

You'll also know how much he's earning, says Ian, by the type of physical activity he's currently into. "When I'm financially OK, I play golf or I go skydiving," he offers. "*Pero kung* basketball or soccer, *wala akong masyadong pera.*"

He's thankful that he's found a sponsor (Yamaha) for his other sport, motocross riding.

Mark is likewise into soccer and basketball. He also runs and does cardiovascular exercises. One of his greatest dreams is to steer his own boat and go on a cruise around the world.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

# Linda Ellerbee disses the TV news

By Leia Torre

FOR the past 25 years, Linda Ellerbee has earned a living by writing, producing and anchoring award-winning television shows. She has also written two best-selling books, has a weekly syndicated newspaper column, is a much-sought-after speaker, and is president of Lucky Duck Productions. She is also a breast cancer survivor and, most importantly, a mother.

### Career

Ellerbee began her career at CBS, after which she moved to NBC News where, after covering politics, she cultivated a following in the 1980s with the ground-breaking late-night news program "NBC News Overnight," which she wrote and anchored.

This program received the DuPont Columbia Award and was cited as "the best-written and most intelligent news program ever."

In 1986, Ellerbee moved to ABC News, where she wrote and anchored "Our World," a weekly primetime historical series. Her work on "Our World" won her an Emmy for best writing.

During her 12 years as a network correspondent and anchor at NBC, Ellerbee covered the United States Congress, the White House, presidential campaigns, national conventions and the occasional murder.

ELLERBEE. Began her television career at CBS.

While at NBC, she also anchored and wrote the award-winning news magazine "Weekend" and the Today Show feature series "TGIF," in addition to the late-night news program "NBC News Overnight."

### Textbook

Ellerbee's book about television, "And So It Goes," stayed on The New York Times best-seller list for 18

LINDA/ p. C7

# Patricia Javier joins 'Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin'

By Edmund L. Sicam

PATRICIA Javier is mostly known for the sexy roles she's portrayed in movies like "Ang Kabit ni Mrs. Montero" and "Marital Rape." But this siren's got something else up her sleeve—she is also a singer. So far, she's recorded a single.

### Internet find

A company called The M2 Group headed by Adrian Hobbs saw her on the internet and decided she was exactly what they were looking for. Hobbs liked her sexiness and decided her voice was something he could work on. Quips Patricia, "*Kailangan lang daw ng practice." As a result, she's now taking voice lessons at UP.*

Does Patricia get nervous before a concert? "*Siyempre, lagi kang kakabahan pag wala ka pa doon. Pero once nandoon ka sa stage, iniisip ko lang, kailangan mapasaya ko ang mga taong ito. Kaya I give it my all.*"

Whose fashion does she copy when she's onstage? Why not show off, since she's got the body for it, anyway? "Sina Kylie Minogue, Jennifer Lopez, Britney Spears..." She does admit that people come and watch out of curiosity, first and foremost because she's a sexy star. But then they get surprised that she can sing as well. Patricia is thrilled with the prospect of being a recording star - "*Yung kanta, kahit patay na yung tao, puwede pang patutugtugin.*"

That doesn't mean she's ignoring her acting career. Lately, she's been added to the cast of the GMA soap opera, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin." Her character is described as someone who is "slithering her way into the scene as the Don's sultry trophy wife, with seduction as her way to achieve devious schemes."

JAVIER. Also shooting a film.

### Movie

She's also in the middle of shooting a movie, but in a supporting role. Would she consider doing a movie where she gets top billing? "*Kung may magandang story, magandang makasama... pero ngayon nage-enjoy ako kahit hindi solo movie, kasi hindi ako ganoon ka-pressured. Pag ikaw kasi ang lead, lahat ng expectation nasa 'yo. Pag hindi kumita, ikaw ang sisisihin.*"

How about her love life? She's no longer with her boyfriend, Mark. "*Siguro, nakabuti na hindi na kami, dahil mas marami siyang work, same thing with me. Tapos, I can say anything I want. Wala na yung nahihiya pa ako sa kanya. Sometimes, I go out, but that's it.*".

### Parties

Patricia's the first to admit she didn't go to parties before. What made her change her mind? "*Basta, gusto ko lang lumabas. Siyempre, kasi, mahirap pag single ka. Minsan, gusto mo rin maging happy.*"

There has been a bit of a buzz that she and Rico Yan were starting to get friendly a few days before Rico left for Palawan. Patricia narrates that she met Rico on the set of a show she was guesting in, and they exchanged cell numbers. Every now and then, they'd text.

Patricia discloses, "Thursday night (the night before Rico died), *nag-text pa ako sa kanya, tapos the following day, mga nine o'clock kumakain ako ng breakfast, biglang nag-text yung friend ko, 'Uy, si Rico Yan, namatay daw.' Sabi ko, ha? Hindi puwede!*

"For one week, *dinala ko yun. Hindi ako makatulog. It felt so sad nung nawala siya. Pero nung time na gusto nila mag-interview, ayoko. Ayokong mafeel ng mga tao, bakit nakikisabay ka? Pero ngayon, masasabi ko na, dahil andito pa rin sa dibdib ko. Sayang naman si Rico, ang bait-bait niya.*"

Patricia learned a lot from that brief encounter. '*Nung nawala si Rico, na-realize ko na, habang nabubuhay ka, gawin mo na yung mga gusto mong gawin, kasi you never know. Pasarapan at pagandahan na ang buhay, hindi na pahabaan.*"

# Chef from Canada coming to town

WORD OF MOUTH

*Sandy Daza*

THE FOOD business has become so competitive, with more and more ideas blossoming from creative minds. Fast foods started in the '70s, then came nouvelle cuisine, the bistro concepts, today the coffee craze, etc. In some western countries, one can order food from any fine dining restaurant and a company that specializes in service sets up the whole meal at one's dining table.

### New concept

In Canada, there are chefs who offer to cook for small gatherings of friends. This new concept is exciting and different, because the entire meal is prepared and served right in the comfort of one's home.

There are many chefs who have started to go into this business. All the host has to do is enjoy the party. The idea is simple and costs a fraction of the meal compared to having it in a fine dining restaurant. But which chef does one choose? Word of mouth is still the most accurate guide in determining the best performers.

We are blessed here in the Philippines because a chef from Canada is coming to our shores soon. She has already been booked for a few sit-down dinners. Isabel Marquez Cuyugan is a chef of the Diva restaurant at the Metropolitan Hotel in Vancouver. I have personally experienced her cooking and her style is a fine dining experience. Her cooking is simple, healthy and delicious!

CUYUGAN. Chef of the Diva restaurant at the Metropolitan Hotel in Vancouver, Canada.

### Small dinners

Sab will be in Manila from June 30 up to the end of July. Here are her menus and the dates she will be available for small dinners. Most of her main ingredients will be flown in from Vancouver and she would like that before she flies here, all the reservations shall have been made. Here are Sabs menus:

**Menu 1 (3 courses) P1,350**

Cinnamon infused Duck Breast served with Potato, Mascarpone and Leek Ravioli,

Wilted Spinach, Oven Dried Grape and Sherry Brown Butter

Milk Poached Alaskan Smoked Black Cod, Honey and Butter Glazed Local Vegetables,

Organic Barley Riso tto, Carrot-Curry Nage

Chilled Lavender Fruit Soup

**Menu 2 (4 courses) P1,500**

Pan Roasted Alaskan Smoked Black Cod with a Ragout of Summer Vegetables,

Chive Beurre Blanc

Green Salad with Red Onion and Fig Marmalade, Feta Cheese, Pumpkin Seeds,

Grilled Lemon Olive Oil

Marinated Beef Flank Steak with Wasabe and Scallion Mashed Potatoes in a Panko Fried Onion,

Red Pepper Puree

Trio of Panna cotta

**Menu 3 (4 courses) P1,600**

Five Spiced Prawns on Sugar Skewers with Pineapple Carpaccio,

Honey Lime Emulsion

Crab Cappuccino with Chive Froth

Herb Marinated Lamb Loin, Creamed Mushrooms and Spinach in a Roasted Potato Bone,

Summer Vegetables, Grainy Mustard Jus

Lemon Grass Poached Asian Fruit

**Menu 4 (5 courses) P2,000**

Local Seafood and Tomato "Martini"

Puree of Roasted Squash with Cinnamon Chantilly Cream

Braised Quail with Water Chestnuts and Ginger Soya Dressing

Canadian Maple Syrup Brushed Halibut, Grilled Baby Potatoes, Double Smoked Bacon and Broad Bean Rissole, Maple-Lime Gastric

Port infused Figs on a Crisp Pastry Crust with Creamy Honeyed Goat's Cheese

**Menu 5 (5 courses) P2,300-2,500(depending on choices)**

Chef's choice or Mix and Match.... (3 appetizers,1 entrée, 1 dessert)

All proteins except prawns, crab and shrimp will be flown from Canada.

All prices are based on current US dollar rates.

There is a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 16 guests per party

1 Menu Choice per party

Dates available:

Monday-Wednesday—July 8, 9, and 10.

Monday-Thursday—July 15, 16, 17, 18.

Monday-Tuesday—July 22 and 23.

Happy eating!

*You may email Isabel at: isabelcuyugan@hotmail.com*

TWO FOR THE SHOW

# Sunshine Dizon lands in hospital due to overfatigue

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

WHEN Sunshine Dizon was hospitalized recently, some people speculated that she had taken an overdose (of prohibited drugs), but Sunshine laughs off the speculations and said it was just a case of over-fatigue.

"*Ang tigas kasi ng ulo ko*, if only I obeyed my mom and took vitamins, *hindi na siguro ako magkakaksakit*," she sighs.

She admits that she was so burned out before that she left for the States to rest. "I didn't want to come back anymore because I was so tired. I wanted to study there. But I soon got bored doing nothing, so I decided to come back and work anew for 'Anna Karenina."

Now, Sunshine has two shows, "Kung Mawawala Ka" and "Daboy en Da Girl," to keep her on her toes. What does she do on her days off?

"On Wednesdays I just rest, on Fridays, I either go to the parlor or to the movies with friends," she shares.

When does she plan to settle down? "When I have millions in the bank, when I already have a beach house and when I have found someone who truly loves me!"

### Michael de Mesa acts from the heart

"Acting is not just in my blood," says thespian Michael de Mesa, "it's first and foremost in my heart." Coming as he does from a long line of respected acting stalwarts, De Mesa knows what he's talking about.

That's why, when the creative heads of ABS-CBN were casting their new "Tanging Yaman" drama series, De Mesa's name was on top of the list. For the program's initial presentation, De Mesa plays a father who leaves for abroad to work. However, instead of being the solution to his family's situation, *he* becomes the problem.

Lately, De Mesa has spread his wings to include acting in theater. He impressed everyone as a homosexual junkie in Jonathan Larson's "Rent," where he got to sing some really moving pieces. Last year, he acted opposite Lea Salonga in "Proof" and soon, De Mesa will wow theater audiences when he stars in the off-Broadway hit "Tick Tick Boom," to be directed by Bobby Garcia.

DE MESA. Busy performing on TV and in stage plays and musicals.

### Joyce Jimenez is a risk-taker

She's doing one wholesome film after another, and the idea doesn't bother Joyce Jimenez a bit. "You've got to try everything in order to feel complete," she asserts, adding, "It also helps you realize what you are most comfortable at."

Jimenez, whose current film "I Think I'm In Love" is doing better than expected at the tills, stresses that she's not just referring to the movies she's making, but also to life in general. "I think you can say that I'm a risk-taker," she exclaims.

She believes that it is only by taking calculated risks that she can know where her strengths and weaknesses lie. "I had my share of harsh reviews but that's how I learned," she says.

But she's quick in pointing out that she hasn't turned her back completely on sexy roles. "The more doors that are open, the better for me," she smiles.

Jimenez recently set up her own lingerie line, and sales are doing well. She has learned from the staff of Sari-Sari (the store which exclusively sells her line) that a lot of men are buying her products as gifts for their wives and girlfriends.

"I'm really thankful for all the blessings that are coming from above," she says. Last Sunday, we saw Jimenez attend early evening mass in a small chapel in New Manila. She was clad in a simple LAPD T-shirt and jeans, sans any make-up, with spectacles on, and no boyfriend in tow. One thing we noticed: she looked happy and stress-free.

### Disney Channel is now with Sky Cable

We reckon that Disney Channel should have been with Sky Cable much earlier than its scheduled premiere on July 1. Kids simply adore the programs of Disney.

We were recently treated to a luncheon with Mickey and Minnie Mouse at the Makati Shangri-La to witness the formal contact signing of Sky Cable and Disney Channel.

With a branding image like "Everyday Magic, Magic Everyday," Disney Channel is sure to delight thousands and thousands of kids—and the young at heart, too.

### Hans Montenegro loves the biz

Hans Montenegro says that he loves being an early bird. "I catch all the worms," he teases. "Seriously, when I start my day early, I feel that I get to accomplish more!"

Montenegro has gotten used to early morning wake-up calls ever since he was taken in as part of GMA-7's "Unang Hirit," which has undergone a recent face-lift.

Despite getting a lot of feel-good mail and feedback from his female fans, Montenegro says his heart is already reserved for his program co-host, Miriam Quiambao. "I think we make a good pair," says Montenegro, who despite being a dad and a divorcee, was able to sweep the conservative Quiambao off her feet.

Aside from doing a good job on "Unang Hirit," Montenegro also runs a bar in Libis called Rockstar. How does he get his much-needed rest? "I take long naps in the afternoon," he grins.

# Jericho-Kristine love team tested in 'Forevermore'

By Edmund L. Sicam

KRISTINE Hermosa has a new movie with current love team partner Jericho Rosales. It's called "Forevermore", and while it's not their first movie together, it's the first time they're billed as leads. It seems that this will be the true test of the box office draw of their love team. How does Kristine feel about this?

"*Nakakatakot din. Ang* pressure *nandiyan, pero, humingi na lang tayo ng tulong kay* God."

### Adjustments

Did Kristine have to make major adjustments to do a light drama since she's so used to all the crying and tragedy in her soap opera, "Pangako Sa Yo"? "*Meron konting iyakan. Sa sineng ito, makikita ang kabilang* side *ni Kristine. May pagka-jolly!*"

And apparently, there is yet another side to Kristine... the rebellious side perhaps? Was it because of this side that she moved out of her house for a few months? "*Hindi po ako nagrebelde. Kaya ko ginawa yun kasi gusto kong mag-*stand alone. *Gusto ko ma-*experience *ang buhay ng mag-isa.*

"*Ang dami dami kong na-*experience *na mga bagay-bagay, ang dami kong natutunan na hindi ko nagagawa pag andyan ang* parents *ko kasi siyempre, mas gusto nila sila na lang ang gumawa kaysa sa ako pagagawa nila.*"

ROSALES AND HERMOSA. Feeling the pressure.

### Experience

So, what made her go back home? "*Kasi na-*experience *ko na. May mga natutunan na ako. Nagawa ko na yung gusto kong gawin.*"

She returned home just in time—the entire family plans to go to Canada early next year for about three or four months. Not to worry, she plans to finish up "Pangako sa 'Yo" and her other projects before leaving, so fans needn't panic.

What will she do, exactly, on her three-month vacation from Philippine show business? "*Magtatrabaho ako dun! Gusto ko ma-*experience *yung ganun. Hindi naman nila ako kilala dun, di ba?*" What, like work at McDonald's? "*Ganun. Simpleng trabaho, simpleng buhay. Gusto kong balikan yung buhay ko* before, *di ba?*"

Isn't she afraid that if she's gone for that long, there will be someone else whom audiences will get interested in? "*Ang* show biz *hindi naman* forever. So anticipated *ko na yun, na madaming artistang pumapasok, marami pang mas gagaling, mas magugustuhan ng tao sa akin. Gusto ko lang mag-iwan ng magandang* memory. *Pero hindi naman ako magtatagal.*"

Does she have an alternative career in mind? "*Gusto kong mag-try ng maraming trabaho. Pero bago tayo pumunta doon, katlangan ko muna tapusin yung pag-aaral ko.*"

## Linda Ellerbee disses . . . From p. C6

weeks, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and is used as a textbook at more than 100 universities. Her second book, "Move On," is about getting through the last half of the twentieth century without destroying one's sense of humor.

The first book's complete title is "And So It Goes—Adventures in Television," a very apt one for this collection of irreverently humorous stories. Linda Ellerbee succeeds in taking her readers into the world of "serious" television and making them enjoy the experience. She is able to find something funny in the most trying situations.

The book's progression is more or less chronological, and it follows Ellerbee's rise in the world of TV journalism. She laughs about the fact that she only got started in television journalism because she had two mouths to feed.

### Difficult

During those times, it was still very difficult to climb to the top and stay there, but Linda Ellerbee managed to do so, after quite a lot of "wearing clothes in which you could do almost everything except work."

There is also a very amusing story about how she maneuvered things in order to stop the "big bosses" from dictating how she should wear her hair.

There are a lot of journalistic names mentioned in the book, and quite a number of political ones, as well. What's unique about Linda Ellerbee's style of writing is that she manages to poke fun at high-ranking people in such a way that it would be hard for them to take offense.

She inserts little vignettes between the main story about her career, and these make the book interesting. They serve as a nice laughing break, although there are few parts in this book that one could call boring.

One of the more interesting details here is Ellerbee's fear of being called a "Twinkie" reporter. Her quotable quote on this topic: "You've seen them on television acting the news, modeling, and fracturing the news while you wonder whether they've read the news—or if they've blow-dried their brains, too."

Another remarkable quality about this writer is her not being afraid to call things as she sees them. She does not deny that her business takes advantages of those tragic examples of human failure that happen almost every day.

### Observation

When one politician complained that everything that could be seen on network television news was bad news, Linda Ellerbee's observation was: "News stories are mostly *about* human failure. If you want to hear about human achievement, try the sports section."

That's quite a cynical view of the television news business, but there it is!

Aside from being a good source of quotable quotes, this book also takes us back to the time when the news was brought to the US public by the three reigning networks, NBC, ABC, and CBS. It is interesting to note that Linda Ellerbee was sequentially employed by each of these three companies.

One can glean from her writing how these companies differed from one another, and how they each had their way of getting up their share of the audience, or what Ellerbee refers to as "products." This consumer-product theory is also briefly explained: The networks are the producers who produce the product, which is the audience.

The greater the number of products, the more the consumer will pay—the consumer, of course, being the advertiser. Economists may find it hard to relate this particular theory of Ellerbee's to everything they know about supply and demand, but that's how the commercial TV business operates.

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o ubong may kakambal na sipon, lagnat o sakit ng ulo

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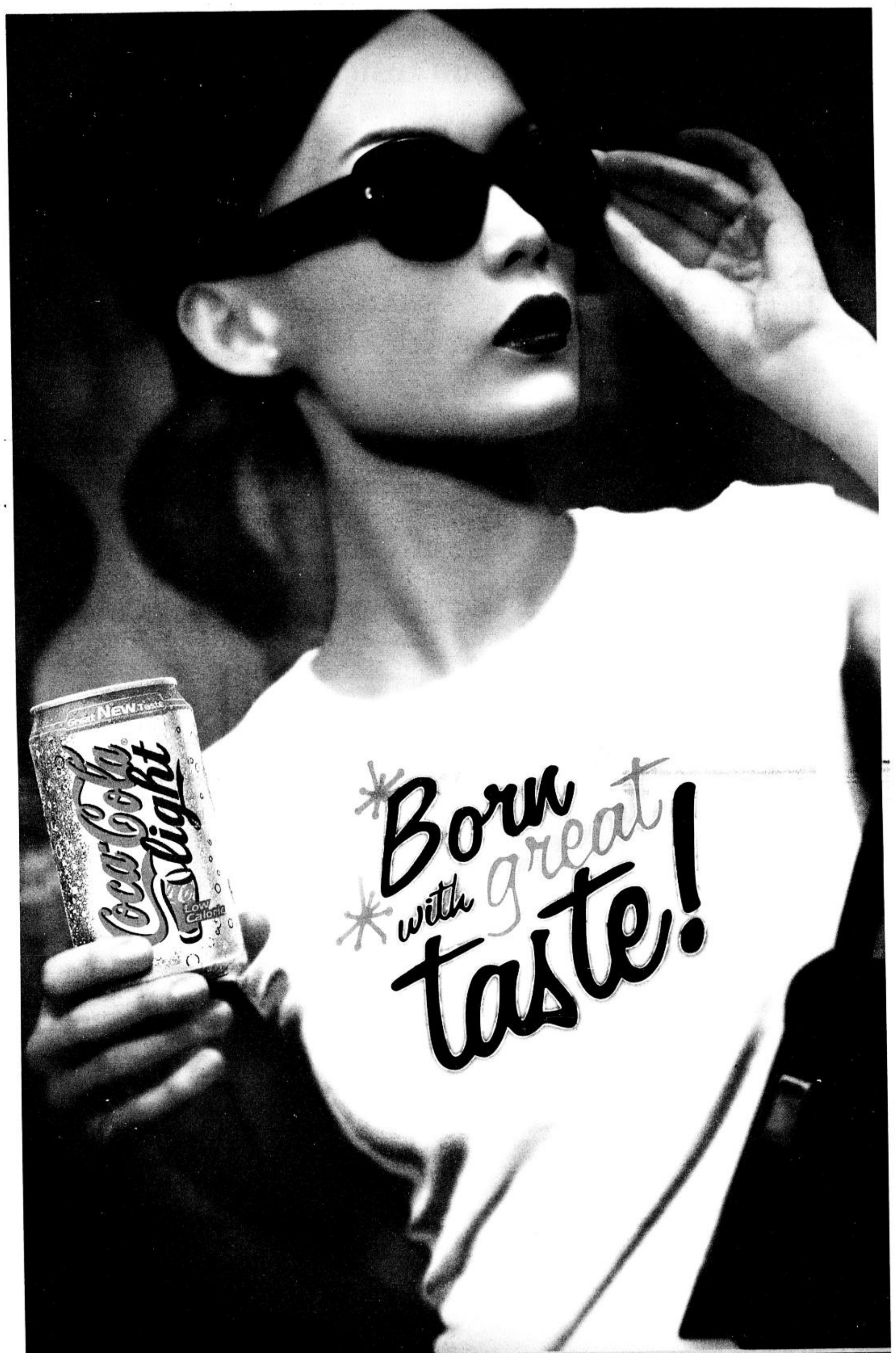
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# TURDAY Special

# Tom Hanks honored

LOS ANGELES—The American Film Institute has selected actor and director Tom Hanks as the 30th recipient of its lifetime achievement award.

The award was given June 12 at a ceremony in Hollywood.

"Tom Hanks is American film's Everyman for a new generation," said Howard Stringer, chairman of the institute's trustees.

### Roles

Hanks, 45, is a two-time best actor Oscar winner for his roles as a lawyer who contracts AIDS in "Philadelphia"

TOM/ p. D3

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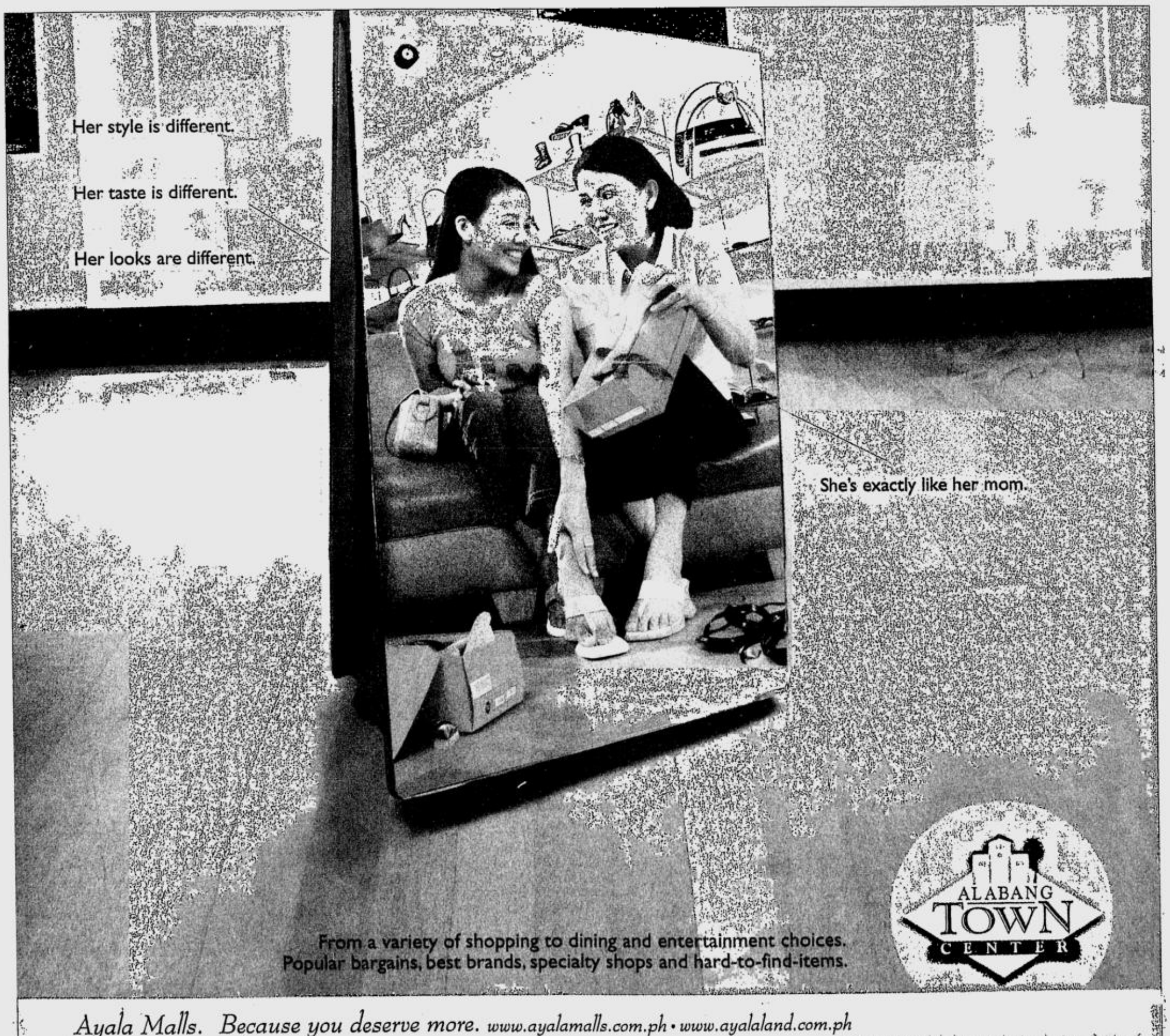


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# Inauspicious comeback for 'The Weakest Link'

By Nestor U. Torre

FINALLY, after what feels like months and months, Edu Manzano and "The Weakest Link" are back on the tube. That's the good news.

The bad news is that the quiz show made its comeback last Monday with a most inauspicious celebrity episode, with most of the eight featured singers opting to "pass" on some really easy questions.

**Classmate**

Like: "If sunrise is *pagsikat* in Filipino, what is sunset?" "*Ano ang ibig sabihin ng ora pro nobis?* "*Sino ang* US president *na naging* classmate *sa* States *ni* Gloria Macapagal Arroyo?" "*Ano ang* M *sa pangalan ni* veteran radio personality Dely M?" And, "*Sino ang* leading lady *ng* The 'Red Diaries'?"

Even questions about music sometimes got vague or incorrect responses. Like: "What is the name of Joey Ayala's group?" (Right answer: Ang Bagong Lumad).

Were the singers nervous, or just generally clueless? Whatever the reason, they did really badly during the very first round, prompting quizmaster Edu to caustically sneer in his patented fashion, "Somebody's out of tune!" You bet.

**Astute**

The contestants did better in some of the subsequent rounds, thank goodness, and the last two survivors were pretty astute and with-it, thus making the one-on-one finals exciting.

Unfortunately, a lot of minus points had been scored in the previous rounds, so the comeback episode as a whole left a lot to be desired.

Happily for Boob-tube Booboos buffs, the show came up with a number of really choice boners that got viewers at home giggling. Enjoy:

Edu: On which continent can Indonesia be found?

Contestant: Uh, pass . . .,

(Asia!)

**Aardvark**

Edu: *Ano ang* first two letters *sa salitang* aardvark?

MANZANO. Exacting standards.

Contestant: AR.

(No, AA.)

* * *

Edu: *Sino si* Bot *sa* Vi and Bot?

Contestant: Ah, Bebot . . . no, Buboy . . . no—

(Stop already. It's Edgar Mortiz!)

* * *

Edu: *Sino ang pinkamataas na* government officer *sa isang barangay*?

Contestant: Congressman!

(No, *barangay* captain!)

* * *

Well, those booboos were entertaining, so all was not lost. But we still wondered if the show shouldn't upgrade its "general knowledge" requirements for prospective contestants, both celebrity and non-show biz.

**Perverse kick**

Some viewers may get a perverse kick out of seeing contestants being so stunningly clueless, but this isn't good for a self-respecting quiz show, which should impress the viewing public both with the difficulty of its questions *and* the facility with which the contestants answer them.

In any case, we're glad to see "The Weakest Link" back on the TV screen, because Edu is one of the most diverting quizmasters on the tube. It would be better, though, if the contestants could try harder to match his exacting standards!

# Lucas readies online games

LOS ANGELES—The video game publishing arm of filmmaker George Lucas' entertainment empire said on Monday it would develop online role-playing games based on the "Star Wars" movies for both the PlayStation 2 and Xbox video game consoles.

The online games, which will allow thousands of gamers to compete with each other in virtual worlds from their living rooms, will be based on the "Star Wars" series, privately held LucasArts Entertainment said.

**PC version**

A PC-based version of the game titled "Star Wars Galaxies: An Empire Divided" was widely anticipated and due in December.

The decision to launch parallel console versions on both the upstart Xbox and market-leading PlayStation 2 marked something of a draw for rivals Sony Corp. and Microsoft Corp.

LUCAS. Virtual worlds in players' living rooms.

Sony and Microsoft have both discounted their game machines to $199 in the United States in recent days and are competing for attention as the video game industry's biggest gathering, the Electronic Entertainment Expo, begins here.

**Attempt**

Microsoft said on Monday it would launch a global online game network for the Xbox later this year, an attempt to generate subscription revenue from the broadband-ready game machine.

Sony said earlier this year it would roll out an adapter for its PlayStation 2 in August for $39.99, allowing it to connect to the Internet for gameplay via dial-up or broadband access.

San Rafael, California-based LucasArts did not say when the games for the two consoles would be released.

he latest episode in the blockbuster movie franchise "Stars Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones" racked up $183 million at box offices worldwide in the first four days after its release. *Reuters*

# *Danilo Barrios learns to forgive and forget*

By Jocelyn Valle

CHANNEL 2's newest drama program, "Tanging Yaman" (Saturdays, 2:30 p.m.), espouses "the triumph of the human spirit" through a series of family stories that will run from six to eight weeks. Danilo Barrios, who's in the cast (along with Marvin Agustin, Michael de Mesa and Amy Austria) of the first teleplay, "Puso Ko'y Muling Buksan" (directed by Don Cuaresma) knows very well what that truism means.

**Life story**

At 19 (he's turning a year older on Aug. 6), Danilo has been through a lot (enough for his life story to make it to "Tanging Yaman"). His parents parted ways when he was only two months old. The separation's why and how, as he has recounted to us (most probably culled from the stories he's heard from his grandmother, who practically raised him), would make an interesting sequence for a dramatic movie.

Danilo grew up shuttling between his mother's and father's respective homes. "*Kapag hindi kami magkasundo ng* stepfather *ko, pumupunta naman ako sa* family *ng* dad *ko*," he recalls, sighing. "I became a numb person then."

**Independent**

Fortunately, Danilo didn't let his woes ruin his life. "*Kailangan ko kasi na ma-*prove *ang sarili ko*," he says in reflection. "*Natuto akong makisama at saka maging* independent. *Sinabi ko sa sarili ko*, 'Never lose faith.'"

"*Pero*," he adds, chuckling. "*Nagbarkada din ako. Ang* worst *na nagawa namin, 'yung uminom bago pumasok sa* school." (He graduated from Tarlac Memorial High School.)

Danilo remembers visiting his cousins in Olongapo every summer and he would learn new things from them, including playing billiards and dancing. "During one summer," he recalls, grinning, "*mga* 10 *na sayaw ang natutunan ko*."

BARRIOS. Heartthrob.

His newfound terpsichorean skill proved to be Danilo's ticket to a much better life. When film director Chito Roño was looking for new members for the Streetboys, the dance group that he helped found and now manages, he called for an audition, which Danilo passed with flying colors.

Prior to that, the youngster with the distinctive bushy eyebrows had been offered by German Moreno to try show business, but he turned the invitation down. He then joined the "You're So Kaka" *pa-pogi* contest on a noontime show and landed a role in the afternoon soap, "Del Tiero."

**New recruit**

Danilo admits to not being as adept in acrobatic dance moves as the other streetboys, but Roño (whom the dancers call Boss) clearly saw a matinee idol in the making in the new recruit. He was, for a while, paired with teen star Camille Prats in "Arriba, Arriba," and in the recently canceled "G-mik."

Danilo was launched as a heartthrob in "Cool Dudes," with Cogie Domingo and James Blanco. He helped pull in the youth crowd to last year's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Yamashita." He'll be seen next in "Dekada '70" and "Spirit Warriors 2," which is the follow-up to his first movie that features the Streetboys.

"*Ngayon*, happy *na ako*," he smiles. "*Kung may* hatred *man ako* before, *ngayon wala na*. I've learned to forgive and forget. I make it a point to get in touch with my parents, *at saka sa mga kapatid ko*."

**Siblings**

Danilo has built a house for his mom in Tarlac and he helps send his siblings (on his mom's side) to school. He's saving up for two more houses, one for his grandmother in Cebu and the other for himself in Metro Manila.

Currently, he's staying in a condo unit all by himself. He's adapted to his single life, he says. "*Hindi ako marunong magluto kaya puro* takeout *ang kinakain ko*," he laughs. "*O kaya sa labas na lang ako kumakain. Nagpapa-*laundry *ako pero ako ang nagpa-plantsa ng mga damit ko. Ako rin ang naglilinis ng bahay*."

Danilo adds that he rarely goes out on gimmicks. He unwinds in a billiards hall near his condo. He also enjoys watching TV, listening to his CD collection and calling his relatives (his dad's been in Paris since two years ago) on his cellular phone. "*Nakaka-*P500 *nga ako sa* prepaid cards," he "complains," shaking his head. But the need to be in touch is strong so hang the expense, Danilo keeps calling!

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# Sunshine Dizon goes back to work after hospital stay

By Edmund L. Sicam

JUST how hard is an 18-year-old working if she ends up in the hospital for a week (three days of that in the ICU) due to fatigue? Apparently, if it's Sunshine Dizon, very hard indeed: She's currently doing two TV shows, "Kung Mawawala Ka" and "Daboy en Da Girl," plus "rackets" here and there, like parades in Cabanatuan, shows, etc.

**Out-patient basis**

She's on an out-patient basis—an additional problem is that her doctors don't want her to mix her meds. She's not only taking medicine for her fatigue, she's also taking it for her hypothyroid AND her migraines. But she can't not work. "*Hindi ako puwede matanggal sa* week na ito, *dahil masisira ang istorya*".

So the writers found a way, at least for her scenes the day before—they made her character pass out from shock at finding out about another character's death. In reality, she was sleeping in another room.

One must ask, how did she get so sick, even under the eagle eye of an overprotective mom? "*Matigas ang ulo ko, e.* I don't listen to my mom. If I did, *hindi ako magkakasakit*." How does she feel when she hears people say that she was at the hospital after overdosing on drugs? "I feel life is so beautiful, why should I take it away? It's only God who has the right to take your life away."

So she's never touched drugs? She contends she's seen it used when she goes out, but neither she nor her friends have ever tried it. "I'm afraid of the after-effects. You feel good today, *pero* years later, something may happen to your brain. I know my limits. I know how to have fun, but when it comes to the dirty things, I'm not going to join you."

DIZON. Get high on music and her new cell phone.

So, how does she get high without drugs? "Reading and listening to music. And I have a new phone (a new toy!)—the 8910. It's the newest model."

**Devoted friend**

It is said that Cogie Domingo, her current love team partner and best friend, even made "*bantay*" in the hospital. Two days, Sunshine affirms with a smile. How did that feel, to have such a devoted... friend? "It's nice to feel that someone cares for you, even though you're not in a relationship."

How about Polo (Ravales, her ex-love team parnter)? Did he visit? "*Si* Polo *ay may sarili na pong buhay... Pero* what's funny is, *yung* mommy *ni* Polo *ang bumisita, hindi siya kasama, yung* little brother *niya*."

So what's it like, working with the likes of Rudy Fernandez and Rosanna Roces? Sunshine calls Rudy "sweet" and Osang "really nice." She just sometimes cannot take the green jokes that the two tell. She simply leaves the room when that happens.

Does Sunshine not like green jokes? "I do, but I have a limit. *Pag so-*

SUNSHINE/ p. D3

# Winners of MTV Pilipinas 2002 announced

MTV Pilipinas staged a night filled with fanfare, glitz and glamour mixed with MTV's wacky sense of humor (care of host Martin Nievera and MTV VJs Donita Rose, Sarah Meier, Belinda Panelo and KC Montero). The red carpet was rolled out to welcome celebrities, presenters, nominees and guests for MTV Pilipinas 2002 last June 6 at the NBC Tent at Fort Bonifacio.

### Repeats

MTV Pilipinas 2002 premieres on the MTV channel on June 29 at 2 p.m., with repeats on July 1 at 6 p.m., July 5 at 12 nn, July 7 at 9 p.m. and July 13 at 9 p.m.

The winners are:

Best New Artist—Karylle, for "Can't Live Without You."

Best Group—Rivermaya, for "Umaaraw, Umuulan."

Best Male—Gary Valenciano featuring Kyla, for "Can We Just Stop And Talk A While."

Best Female—Karylle for "Can't Live Without You."

Best Song—Parokya ni Edgar for "Swimming Beach."

Best Director—Lyle Sacris for "Umaaraw, Umuulan," Rivermaya.

Best Video—Rivermaya for "Umaaraw, Umuulan."

Special awards winners:

Favorite Love Ballad, presented by Light Blue from Dolce and Gabbana Parfum, was awarded to Kyla.

Most Stylish Music Video Award, presented by Jag Jeans, was awarded to Cheese for "Mottaka."

Music Achievement Award, presented by All-New Selecta Cornetto and MTV, was awarded to Parokya Ni Edgar.

### Special numbers

Celebrities, presenters and nominees enjoyed the special numbers amidst an urban "Pinoy" setting: presenters and performers walked on-

RX 93.1 with Parokya ni Edgar and MTV VJ Anna Shier.

KARYLLE

GARY Valenciano and Kyla.

stage via a bridgeway with a backdrop of the Manila skyline. Fans filled a mosh pit in the center of the stage, the first in MTV Philippines history, and cheered and body-surfed along with VJ KC Montero.

Presenters were Rufa Mae Quinto, Tim Yap, US-based actor Paolo Montalban, basketball star Alex Compton, actress Nancy Castiglione, models Rissa Mananquil-Samson and Marco Lobregat, designer Inno Sotto, style icon Tessa Prieto-Valdes, director Bobby Garcia, equestrienne Toni Leviste and musical directors Louie Ocampo and Mel Villena.

Rivermaya garnered three awards —for Best Group, Best Director and Best Video. This is a record for MTV Pilipinas. Last year, Kyla and Ogie Alcasid won two awards each, for Best New Artist and Best Video, and Best Male and Best Song, respectively.

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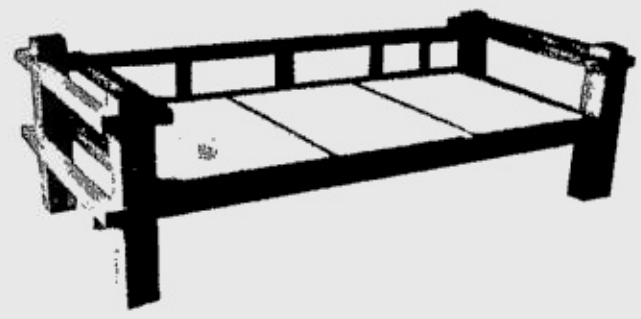

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## Tom Hanks

From p. D1

(1993), and as the dimwitted but lucky Forrest Gump in the 1994 movie of the same name.

Since then, he has been nominated three more times for the same award for his performances in "Apollo 13," "Saving Private Ryan" and "Cast Away."

Hanks won an Emmy in 1998 as executive producer of the television series "From the Earth to the Moon," about the US space program. *AFP*

## Sunshine

From p. D2

*brang* extensive *na yung* joke, *naiilang ako. Baka kung sumakay ako sa biro*, they might get the impression *na kaya nila ako biru-biruin ng ganun.*"

When does Sunshine think she'll settle down? She only needs to fulfill one of the two requirements: When she has millions in her bank account, or when she gets a beach house. And if she can't get either one, "*Makahanap ng isang lalaki na mamahalin ako, yun lang.*"

She turns 19 in July. She has lots of time!

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# Clancy's CIA guy Ryan gets new makeover in 'Sum of All Fears'

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—He's got no web-shooters and no license to kill. He needs a chopper to fly and steers a desk, not an Aston Martin. He never wears a cape, never hides behind a mask.

### Durable screen hero

Yet paper-pusher Jack Ryan has become a durable screen hero, protecting the world with the same devotion—if not the flair and fashion sense—of James Bond, Spider-Man, Batman and other larger-than-life superheroes.

The central figure in Tom Clancy's enormously popular political and espionage thrillers, Ryan was first brought to the screen by Alec Baldwin in "The Hunt for Red October" in 1990, then by Harrison Ford in 1992's "Patriot Games" and 1994's "Clear and Present Danger," and now by Ben Affleck in "The Sum of All Fears."

An ex-Marine who's more a scholar than a soldier, CIA analyst Ryan is the academic who writes the reports that the real operatives act on. He's an ordinary man thrust into extraordinary circumstances, foiling Irish terrorists in "Patriot Games" or helping a Russian submarine commander defect in "Red October."

At a key moment in the new film, when Ryan is about to meet the president and other top leaders, he finds himself stuck in casual clothes and has to commandeer a suit coat and tie.

### Wrong clothes

"James Bond would never be caught dead in the wrong clothes," Affleck said. "That scene's emblematic of what we're trying to do, create a real person as opposed to a super spy. James Bond is great, but Ryan's someone more grounded in reality. He's a more flawed and vulnerable guy."

Mace Neufeld, who's produced all four Jack Ryan films, said the character's continuing appeal is that he could be the guy next door and that he's a man of utter principle and honor.

In one of the Ryan films, his CIA nemesis "refers to him as a Boy Scout, not in a good way but deprecatingly," Neufeld said. "In many ways, I think that's one of the appeals of Jack Ryan. I was a Boy Scout a long time ago. The oath was on my honor, do my best, do my duty to God and country. That's not bad stuff, and it's what Ryan is all about.

MORGAN Freeman, left, and Ben Affleck play CIA operatives in "The Sum of All Fears."

"He's incorruptible, which I think makes him someone audiences want to identify with. He's a good guy in a tough and sometimes very bad world."

In Clancy's later books, Ryan rises through the CIA ranks, becomes national security adviser, is appointed vice president and finally ascends to the presidency in "Executive Orders" after a terrorist flies a jetliner into the Capitol, killing the chief executive and most other US leaders.

### Interest

Ryan was deputy CIA director in the book "The Sum of All Fears," which Neufeld had been developing as a film with the idea that Ford might reprise the role. After Ford moved on to another movie, Affleck, 29, expressed interest, and the project was retooled to accommodate an actor 30 years younger.

The film now puts Ryan at the beginning of his CIA career, an untested analyst whose insight on Russia's new leader throws him into company with the nation's decision makers. After a horrific terrorist assault on US soil, Ryan is left to track down the source of the attack to prevent World War III.

Neufeld and director Phil Alden Robinson said they already had a rough cut of the film late last summer and did not make changes in light of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. They began screening the movie for test audiences last fall and found viewers accepting of the film's terrorism sequences.

"Audiences are so much smarter than they're given credit for," Robinson said.

### Daring flight

Ryan's appeal also owes something to the intellect of moviegoers who want a smart counterpoint to action-laden thrillers, Robinson said.

Clancy's hero is exemplified by the scene in "Red October" when Baldwin, as Ryan, makes a daring flight during a storm in the middle of the Atlantic, trying to hook up with American naval forces where he can share his wisdom on the situation, Robinson said.

"And he says, 'I should have sent a memo,'" Robinson said. "I wanted to make a movie about that guy, the guy who's really a desk jockey and has no experience in that world of action, and who you really worry about when he gets thrown into the fire."

Other Ryan books such as "The Cardinal of the Kremlin," "Debt of Honor" and "Red Rabbit," due out this summer, may give the character a long life in Hollywood.

"In very simple terms, there'll be a Jack Ryan franchise as long as the movies are successful," Affleck said. "I hope I'm not the guy who screws up the whole thing."

*AP*

# Karen Davila is impressed by the power of radio

By Edmund L. Sicam

KAREN Davila is a respected TV broadcast journalist. But not many people know that she also has a radio show on dzMM called "Pasada 630" that's on every day at 4:30 in the afternoon. dzMM is now celebrating its 16th year in broadcasting.

A lot of people underestimate radio. They don't find it as interesting as TV. What about radio makes it worthwhile for Karen?

"It's immediate. Especially with issues, with breaking news, it's very fulfilling. Like *yung sa* Edsa Dos, *iba yung* rapport on radio that time. Also, radio is more *masa*. In many parts of the Philippines, *radyo lang ang nakakaabot doon*.

### Good mix

"*May mga lugar na wala pa ring telebisyon*. I've realized, combining radio and TV, is a very good mix. Sometimes, if people don't know the anchor on radio, they don't relate as well. But if they know that *yung napapanood nila sa* TV *nagra*-radyo, it becomes more personal for the listener."

What about the financial side? "You earn less. So I'm doing radio number one, for love of, and number two, to learn. It's also to widen my sources. On radio, you have more time. On TV, like last night, I interviewed Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes it was four questions, *tapos na*-cut *na* for headlines. *Pero* with radio, you can go on forever."

DAVILA. Immediate feedback.

Karen is overwhelmed at just how powerful radio is. "*Kasi* one time we read a text and we coordinated it with PNCC. May nagcomplain about a *guard tapos tinanggal ng* PNCC *yung guard kaagad... nawalan ng trabaho*.

"I didn't know *na ganoon makapangyarihan ang* radio! *Yung pamilya nung* guard, *pumunta sa opisina*. Eventually, that was fixed. I think he got his job back.

"When you say something on radio, you can't take it back. That's the hard thing, *na pag may masabi ka lang* and you didn't mean it that way, you can't explain it to the listener."

### Many listeners

"*Itong* 4:30 p.m., I've found out, *ang dami palang nakikinig*. And the feedback is very immediate. When you handle the program well, people appreciate you immediately. You see it *sa* text, or the callers."

What does she think of broadcast journalists who act as hostage negotiators? "I think it's crossing the line. Also, it bungles the operations and it makes the work of the police much harder."

### Future plans

So, does Karen have any other plans—like become a game show host, for example? "I don't think I would excel at something like that. But I would like to try, when I'm a little older.

"I've been watching Oprah lately, *alam mo ba na si* Oprah *dapat nag*-retire *na pala siya* a few years ago? *Kasi ayaw na niya talaga mag*-TV—*tapos*, inextend *niya ang* show *niya* for 40 more episodes on the condition *na gagawin niya yung mga gusto niya*. *Yung mga* use your life award, *yung mga* finding.the inner you... and *nakakatulong siya*. So, at some point, when I'm a little older, hopefully, I would have the maturity and skill to handle a show like that."

# Zhang Ziyi wishes for no more air accidents in China

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Feisty actress Zhang Ziyi, who kung-fu kicked her way to international stardom, showed a softer side Saturday when an attempt to express her hopes in life ended in tears.

### Award

Zhang, who found fame in the Oscar-winning martial arts fantasy "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," was in Taipei collecting an award from women's magazine Marie Claire as "best ambassador of women and children." The award ceremony celebrated the magazine's year-long effort to bring more attention to women's issues in a program called "What women want."

When asked what she wanted, Zhang started off saying: "I hope that all planes can fly safely." But when she tried to continue, she couldn't.

The announcer quickly started talking to fill the embarrassing silence that followed and Zhang tried to laugh off the fact that she was choked up, but large tears welled up in her eyes.

Air travel safety has become an emotional issue for many in Taiwan and China, which between them have suffered three fatal air crashes the past two months.

### First fatal crash

In mid-April, China's national carrier Air China had its first fatal crash since it was established in 1988. A flight bound for South Korea slammed into a mountainside killing 118. In early May, a northern Chinese airliner plunged into the sea off China's northeastern coast leaving 112 dead.

And late last month a jet from Taiwan's China Airlines crashed in the Taiwan Strait—the 160 kilometer (100 mile) body of water that separates the sides—killing all 225 on board.

Zhang, a Chinese citizen who also starred with Hong Kong kung-fu star Jackie Chan and American comedian Chris Tucker in "Rush Hour 2," often visits Taiwan to attend commercial promotions. *AP*

ZHANG. Softer side.

# dzMM celebrates 16th year

By Remy M. Umerez

THIS July, dzMM, the country's No. 1 AM station, turns 16. A part of its celebration is the launching of "Project Caravan Kaalaman" in 16 places in Metro Manila, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite and Pampanga.

### Free lectures

dzMM radio hosts and experts will give free lectures on business and urban farming. There will be hands-on training on emergency preparedness, first-aid skills and livelihood skills like meat processing, and candle and soap making.

Its 40 anchors, 50 members of the news gathering team, 15 provincial correspondents, more than 50 production people and over 20 sales and promotions personnel work zealously to deliver news and information as it happens and topnotch programs that cater to the intellect and sentiments of listeners.

Let's meet some of them:

Lourdes Carvajal, *aka* Inday Badiday, is the voice behind the famous line "Careful, Careful," the title of her radio program (Monday to Friday, 2:30-4 p.m.), which deals with show biz gossip.

Daniel Razon wakes up the nation with "Gising Pilipinas." The one-hour program deals with the latest news here and around the world. It also includes "Metro Pasada" for a summary of Radyo Patrol reports.

### Man of many voices

Neil Ocampo hosts "Todo Balita," a wacky morning show. He is called the man of many voices as he is joined by a myriad of characters including Kiss Kiss Sen. Juan Flavor, Tongressman Atras Abante, Kuya Ernil Barong and Sir Apo and Pareng Rap.

Joey Galvez, the King of Dubbers, has spent 36 years of his life perfecting his craft in radio and drama, and is the most sought-after dubber for telenovelas.

He hosts "Todo Todo Walang Preno" with Winnie Cordero (10-11 a.m.) a late morning show that dispenses the latest news, interspersed with practical tips for the home and the kitchen.

Angelo Palmones directs all the events and special projects of ABS-CBN Integrated AM Radio Network and pinch-hits for other anchors.

### Quick action

Kaye Dacer hosts "Aksyon Ngayon," the program referred to as "The Department of Last Resort" where those in need of help from government agencies and officials go for quick action.

Peter Musngi, *aka* Peter Rabbit, is dzMM's station manager and UAAPs project director. On Saturday nights, he hosts a radio show that promotes entrepreneurship and good business.

Frankie Envagelista is one of the most respected personalities on radio and TV. Also known as Ka Kiko, his distinctive voice is unmistakably his.

Together with Angelo Palmones, they are the watchdogs of society, on the look-out for erring officials, government agencies, and private companies.

RAZON, CORDERO, GALVEZ. Reporting the news as it happens.

# Two male singing discoveries make their mark

By Remy M. Umerez

IVORY Records' new singing discovery, Hammilan Pavoreal, is so unique that the recording outfit has sidetracked other OPM projects for a while to give way to his album.

Hammilan is a singer, songwriter, arranger and all-around performer. When he performs, he is a crazy, infectious frontman who climbs the most unlikely places on stage, and blends the moves of a Michael Jackson, combining ballet and karate into one odd, choreographed amalgam.

The album boasts of 10 catchy tunes, which include "Nais Ko," "Mamaya," "I Will Remember," "Sa 'Yo Lang," "Hiya," "L.P.G.," "Ikaw" and "Cellmania."

He makes fun of himself in "Tawas." The album is good, clean fun devoid of cuss words, double entendres or sexual innuendo.

Hammilan's "Maynakakatawabasaakin" is simply on the verge of high energy, almost comical yet relevant pop-rock performances.

DIZON. Balladeer.

### Break

Most TV shows don't give nameless talents a chance, but "Master Showman" gladly welcomes anybody who deserves to be given a break. One such voice belongs to Melvyn Dizon.

His forte is ballads, the kind of songs his idol Martin Nievera is known for.

Singing and dancing are Melvyn's passions. A graduate of Bachelor in Secondary Education (major in Math), Melvyn would rather count the dance steps in a ballroom and teach people how to tango, rhumba or foxtrot. For six years, Melvyn has been a freelance dance instructor.

In last year's "Survivor Concert 2001" at the Coconut Palace, where Anna Fegi, Dessa, Isay Alvarez, Jeremiah and Ara Mina were the featured performers, Melvyn had the opportunity to choreograph the ballroom dance as performed by the employees of the Admiral Maritime Training Association.

His father, Reynaldo Abalone, was a member of the Judas band during the '70s.

For voice lessons and singing tips, Melvyn sought the help of Ryan Cayabyab and Vehnee Saturno.

Artists and Friends, in cooperation with Admiral Maritime Institute of the Philippines, is mounting a concert this July with Melvyn as the solo male performer—a dream come true for the boy from Angeles, Pampanga who has never ceased aspiring to be recognized as a balladeer.

# Alternative healing. . .

From p. D5

tients. When my friend was there in 1964 looking for a cure for prostate cancer, the good doctors there gave him some of the medicine and he is free of the disease now.

The Russians studied the use of the medicine and they say that it is 95 percent successful. The 5 percent who did not benefit were those who did not follow the prescribed program and process.

Recently, there was an article in a daily newspaper that listed the banned medicines against cancer. The list included hydrazine sulfate and laetrile. Laetrile is actually vitamin B17, which is contained in most of the food that has nitrilosides such as *singkamas*, apricots, apple seeds, *cassava* root, etc.

### Injections

I know of a patient with colon cancer who was supposed to have two months to live, and was treated with laetrile and enzymes injected everyday. Three years after, she still had injections. Later on, she took oral capsules for two years. She then stopped taking the medicine. Six years after terminal cancer, she is climbing up a treehouse to cook for her daughter. Now, 11 years later, she is still alive and healthy. *(To be concluded)*

# 'Star For A Night' contestants need less polite critiques

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST week, we were asked to judge one of the "Star for a Night" singing competitions. We had to decline the invitation, then watched the show last Saturday.

### Comments

The judges that week were so generally polite with their comments on the four contestants' weak and strong points that we felt guilty about turning down the chance to be a judge on the talent search.

We felt sad because, when the TV singing tilt started telecasting, the first judges were very helpful in pointing out the contestants' strengths as performers, *and* what they could do to remedy their deficiencies.

This was a very productive tack to take, because new talents can learn a lot about improving themselves by listening to objective (perhaps sometimes even brutally frank) advice from experts.

### Looks

Trouble is, after the first few episodes, the judges on "Star for a Night" became too polite to be truly helpful in this regard. They have generally been concentrating on looks, image, style, costumes—in other words, the packaging, rather than the actual singing talent.

Sure, "packaging" is important in show biz, but this is supposed to be a *talent* search, so the contestants' talents have to be objectively evaluated. Since too little of that was happening last Saturday, we decided to jot down our less "polite" comments on the four contestants' performances, for them to consider or junk, as they see fit:

### Tender years

"You look good, but you're trying to come across much too maturely for your tender years.

"No matter what some people may tell you, the best policy is always to act your age. You'll grow up (*and* grow old) soon enough anyway, so resist people's misguided efforts to make you look like a sexy nymphet even if you're only a tender teenager, or worse, an adolescent.

"Pay more attention to your *singing*, which is what viewers are most interested in. Since you've chosen (or have been assigned) a song that's too mature for you, your still undeveloped singing range has been strained by the difficult vocal requirements of this poorly-chosen song, so you have hit a number of off-key or flat notes—a mortal sin for any singer.

"To avoid this problem in the future, choose your songs really well, and make sure that they're right for your age and personality.

### Over-obvious gestures

"Also, avoid making over-obvious gestures, like putting your hand over your eyes when you're singing about somebody looking into his future—they make you look like a hula dancer!

"It would be much better if you concentrated instead on understanding the *meaning* of your song's lyrics, relating to it, making it come to bear on your own experiences, and then sharing those insights with your audience by way of your performance.

"You'll find that, if you approach the song and your performance of it in this more organic and integral way, you won't really need to resort to many gestures to make your performance interesting and empathetic.

### Interpretation

"It's also important for you not to imitate a famous singer's performing style and song interpretation. It's true that local audiences are shallow and like to hear "xerox" singing performances, but don't go that way, you'll never became a big star in your own right if you do.

"It's more difficult to work out your own approach to a song, but it's also more rewarding. Your most important capital as a singer is *yourself*, so that's what you should concentrate on understanding and developing.

"At the moment, you have a lot of work to do in these areas, but don't let that get you down. Concentrate on further boosting your strengths and minimizing your flaws, and you'll have a much better chance of really becoming a star—not just for a night, but for keeps!"

Loud and clear? Over and out— and good luck in this and other singing tilts, and in your fledgling show biz careers!

HOST Regine Velasquez (center) with four singing contestants.

# Alternative healing options

LOTUS POND

*R. Valencia and S. Bismark*

IN the United States, some people who successfully practice alternative healing are harassed. Their license to practice is often taken away, and some of them have to go from state to state, or move to another country altogether.

One example is Dr. Joseph Gold from the Syracuse Cancer Institute. He discovered that hydrazine sulfate could cure almost all kinds of cancer. It was so cheap and affordable at $20.

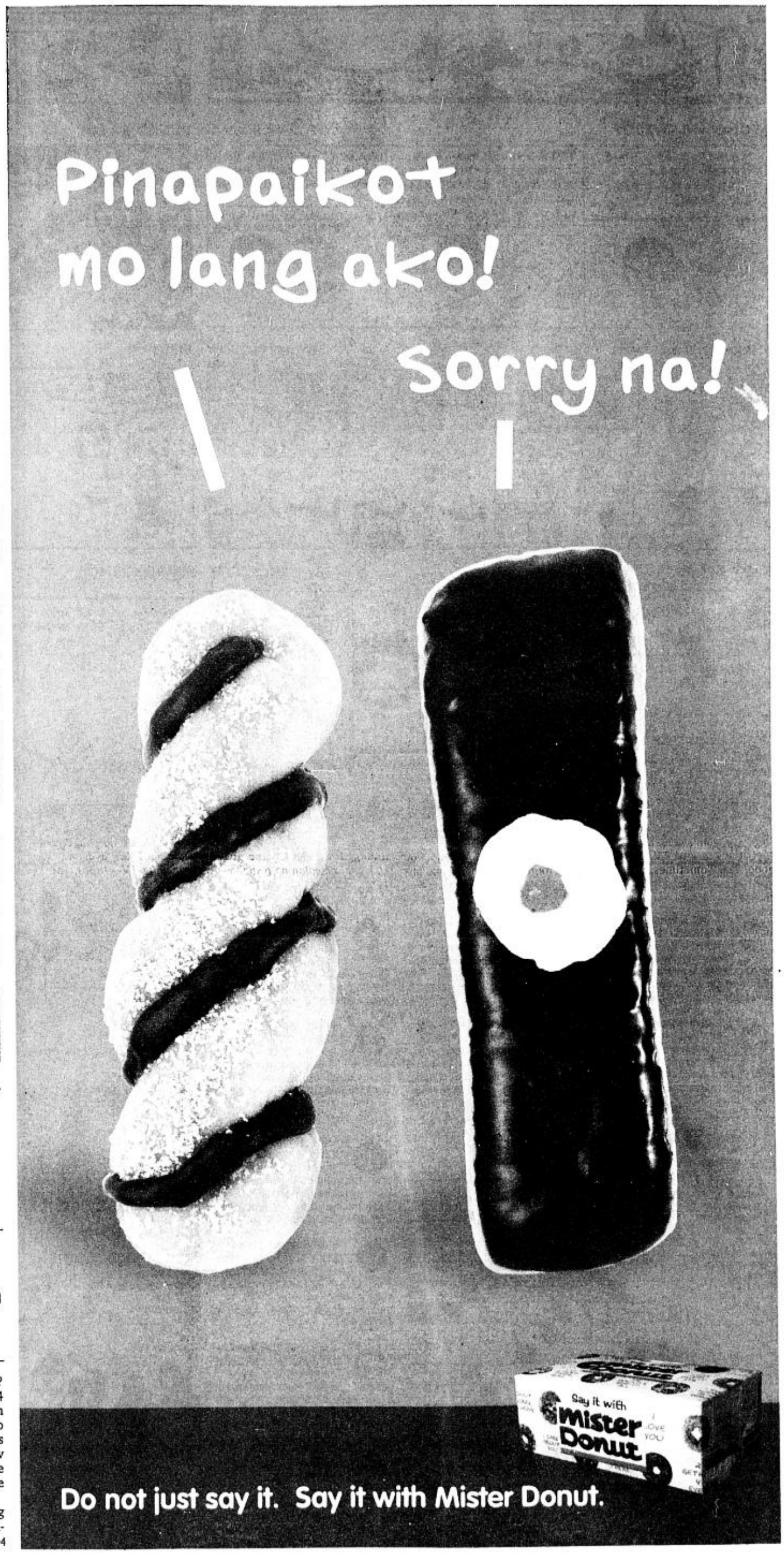
### Formula

The American medical system went after him and banned the medicine. Dr. Gold gave the formula to the Russians and they will be soon be mass producing the medicine under a different label.

How do we know about this? My friend went to Russia in 1964 because of a prostate problem. In 1994, he had the chance to go back to Russia because of his business. He visited the Petrov Hospital in St. Petersburg to see how far they had gone with the research on hydrazine sulfate.

The hospital had been testing the medicine on terminal pa-

ALTERNATIVE/ p. D4

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## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

## ATOMO AND WEBOY

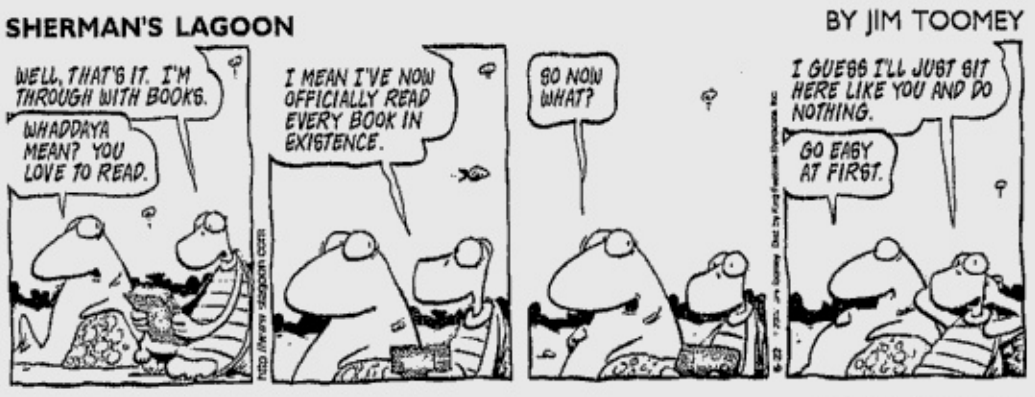
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY




## SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

## MUTTS

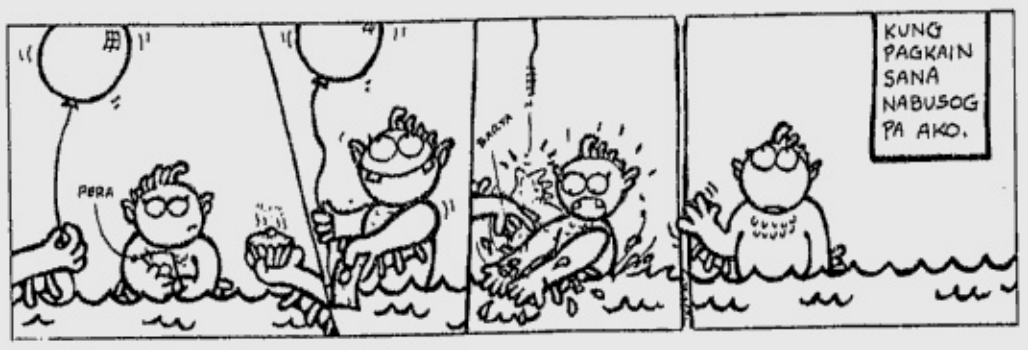
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

## CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO




## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

# HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Meryl Streep, Lindsay Wagner, Tracy Pollan, Bill Blass

**Happy Birthday:** You'll have a healing effect on the people you encounter this year. You'll have such charm and grace that making friends will be easy. You'll be confident and take great pride in the way you look. Whatever direction you choose should allow you to use your talents to the fullest. Your numbers are 11, 15, 29, 35, 41, 47

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You'll be where the action is if you aren't creating it yourself. Much can be accomplished and learned if you are prepared to soak up any knowledge that comes your way.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Your determination to achieve, coupled with your strong beliefs, will bring you popularity as well greater trust in your personal or business relationships.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You may want to do a little research regarding different vocations that offer similar positions to your current one. Consider making a move that will help you .

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You'll be in the mood to do things with others. Your creative drive will enable you to finish the projects you didn't complete. You can update your look if you do a little shopping.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** This may not be an easy day for you emotionally. If you stay busy you will use up a lot of the tension that is building. Be prepared to accept what's going on around you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You will have some fabulous ideas that should be shared with those crusading for the same cause. Dedicate your time to helping others. Be a friend to someone who is emotionally confused today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You may misplace something if you aren't careful. Someone around you may not be interested in what you want. Even though you want to keep the peace, stand your ground.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You could easily ruin a special event due to your accusations. Even if you are suspicious, keep it quiet for the time being and observe. Focus on getting ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You will find it difficult to deal with emotional matters today. If you refuse to talk about a situation you face, your opponent will assume you're guilty. Misunderstandings will occur if you aren't precise.

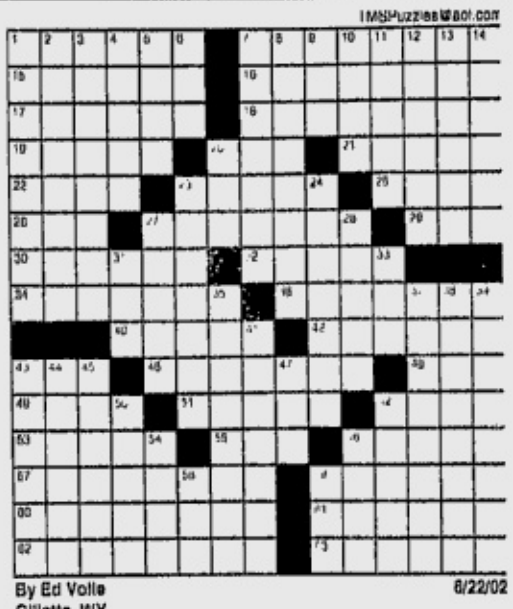
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You'll be a sitting duck at an emotional level today. A past romantic partner is likely to reappear. Don't believe everything you're told. Do your homework before putting your heart on the line.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Your unique ideas and amazing flair will help you come up with some spectacular ideas. Sharing your concerns as well as your solutions will put you in a pretty good position.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't fall for someone who could jeopardize your position. Take the time to catch up on correspondence; there is someone waiting to hear from you.

**Birthday Baby:** You will love to surround yourself with lots of friends. You will thrive on the interaction that you have with others and you will put an emphasis on learning all that you can throughout your life.

# DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ed Volle
Gillette, WY

6/22/02

**ACROSS**
1 Santa's transportation
7 Fence terminus
15 "__ in the Wind"
16 Set the stage for
17 Blacker
18 Judges
19 Hair
20 Victoria's Secret offering
21 Former Barbary state
22 Transmitted
23 Lures
25 LePew of cartoons
26 Along in years
27 Imply beyond the literal meaning
29 Cincinnati ballplayer
30 Type of deodorant
32 Small wood
34 Thomas _ _ Eliot
36 One gym shoe
40 Clear a frosted windshield
42 Whole
43 Molinaro and Martino
46 Gives a second trial
48 Kind of service or gloss
49 Belfry residents?
51 Rides the waves
52 Zany comic Imogene
53 Is skittish
55 Gain a lap
56 Mr. Philbin
57 Cave in
59 Sentries
60 Blood channels
61 Going cheap
62 Most disorderly
63 Abounded

**DOWN**
1 Cutlers
2 Guinevere's lover
3 Set afire
4 Moron
5 Valley
6 That woman
7 Shining blindingly
8 Aquarium adjuncts
9 PC key
10 Prepare copy for publication
11 Erect
12 First match of the day
13 Chevron
14 Hurled
20 Prohibition
23 Raitt and Franklin
24 Rock throwers
27 Kitchen gadget
28 Levels
31 Highland youngster
33 Devour
35 Skis
37 Metric unit
38 Monty Python's Flying Circus member
39 Went by again
41 Spookiest
43 1960 FBI investigation
44 City near Rawalpindi
45 Wading birds
47 Away from the prow
50 Smashing Monica
52 Call it quits
54 Hindu garment
56 Old Norse character
58 Dessert in the sky?
59 Obtained

Friday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | L | A | T | | A | B | L | E | | S | M | A | S | H |
| C | O | D | E | | D | L | I | V | | T | A | U | P | E |
| A | C | R | E | | L | O | V | E | | O | I | L | E | R |
| R | A | I | N | W | A | T | E | R | | A | N | D | E | S |
| E | T | A | | R | I | C | O | | E | T | S | | | |
| D | E | N | S | E | | H | A | N | D | S | P | I | K | E |
| | | | P | S | T | | K | E | G | | R | O | I | L |
| S | T | A | R | T | E | R | | R | E | G | I | N | A | S |
| A | O | K | I | | C | B | C | | S | O | N | | | |
| M | E | A | N | W | H | I | L | E | | N | G | A | I | O |
| | | | G | A | S | | E | S | T | E | | S | R | R |
| S | T | A | R | S | | W | A | T | E | R | M | A | I | N |
| C | A | R | A | T | | A | V | O | N | | O | S | S | A |
| A | R | N | I | E | | R | E | P | S | | M | E | E | T |
| B | O | O | N | S | | F | R | S | E | | A | S | S | E |

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# 'The Cat's Meow' has a talented cast

By Christy Lemire

PETER Bogdanovich doesn't want me telling you who dies in "The Cat's Meow."

He specifically makes that request in the movie's production notes of "anyone writing about the film."

He's kidding, right?

### Weekend trip

The movie is based on fact: In November 1924, film producer Thomas Ince died during a star-studded weekend trip aboard William Randolph Hearst's yacht, the Oneida.

This much we know, and asking us to pretend we don't know is a little silly. But the details of his death are fuzzy, and over the years they've become part of Hollywood mythology.

According to official reports, Ince died of a heart attack, the result of acute indigestion. In Bogdanovich's film, based on a screenplay by Steven Peros, Ince was accidentally shot to death and Hearst arranged a cover-up.

How he died, though, isn't as important here as recreating the opulence of the time. Bogdanovich, a Hollywood historian, uses "The Cat's Meow" as an opportunity to reassemble the famous guests and their hangers-on for a weekend of swilling champagne and dancing the Charleston.

He does this vividly and elegantly, with a talented cast that makes the dialogue crackle even though the characters are thinly sketched. The result is a charming but forgettable film.

### Birthday party

Edward Herrmann is heartbreaking as a jealous, insecure Hearst, who invites guests to his yacht for Ince's birthday party, then spies on them through surveillance equipment.

He mainly keeps an eye on actress Marion Davies (Kirsten Dunst), his beautiful and much younger mistress, because he fears she's having an affair with Charlie Chaplin (Eddie Izzard).

Also on the boat are Louella Parsons (Jennifer Tilly), an ambitious film critic for his New York-based paper who's angling for a transfer to the West Coast; and novelist Elinor Glyn (Joanna Lumley), who serves as the film's sardonic narrator.

They spend the weekend sneaking around corridors and into each other's rooms and eavesdropping on conversations. Chaplin wants Marion to leave Hearst. Ince wants to form a partnership with Hearst's Cosmopolitan Pictures, and uses Marion's suspected affair to gain Hearst's trust. And Ince, who's having an affair of his own, is trying to keep his mistress from going public with the relationship.

Louella, who one day will become a powerful gossip columnist, just wants the glitterati to accept her. And Elinor merely watches the machinations with amusement, and is always ready with delightfully snide commentary.

### Exchanges

(Her exchanges with Chaplin are the brightest in the film, and Izzard—the British comic best known for doing stand-up routines in drag—brings a surprisingly sly sexuality to the role.)

Not much happens until the anticlimactic fatal gunshot, and everyone is shuffled off the boat afterward. But it all looks great; the Art Deco set designs and '20s costumes are gorgeous, and Dunst's face and mannerisms are perfect for the era.

**DUNST. Cast as actress Marion Davies, Hearst's mistress.**

It is such a joy to see Dunst playing her first mature role. She's always stood out from other actresses her age, bringing beauty and presence to teen roles in "The Virgin Suicides" and "crazy/beautiful." Here, she's 19 playing a 27-year-old starlet, and she does it with charm and heart.

Bogdanovich's first feature film since 1993's "The Thing Called Love" has none of the depth or resonance of his best films—"The Last Picture Show," for example, or "Paper Moon"—but it's an entertaining comeback.

"The Cat's Meow," a Lions Gate Films release, is rated PG-13 for sexuality, a scene of brief violence and brief drug use. Running time: 112 minutes. Two and a half stars (out of four). *AP*

SWITCHING CHANNELS

# Disney now on Sky Cable

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE DISNEY Channel will finally be available to subscribers of Sky Cable starting July 1. The formal agreement was signed recently by Eugenio Lopez III, chairman of Beyond Cable Inc, which operates the Sky and Home cable systems, and Jon Niermann, managing director of Walt Disney Television International Asia-Pacific.

Also present at the ceremonies held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel were Carlos Tria, chief operating officer of Beyond Cable and Raymund Miranda, managing director of Disney Channel Asia. Mickey and Minnie Mouse also attended.

The channel was launched in the Philippines on Jan. 15, 2000 on Home Cable and on various systems in the Philippines. It is also available in four other countries in the region: Korea, Simgapore, Malaysia, and Brunei.

We were able to sit down for a short interview with Karen Borja, who is one of the three co-hosts on "Disney Buzz." Although Karen was born and grew up in the US, she is very much a Filipina. Two years ago, she decided to visit the country and reconnect with her Filipino roots. Why, we asked her, when many Filipinos prefer to live a comfortable life in the States?

"It's important to know where I came from," says Karen, whose parents are both from the Philippines. She says she was raised with Filipino values, with a lot of importance placed on family relationships. The time we spoke to her, she was due to fly to the US to attend a family reunion where relatives from all over the world were expected.

Karen moved to the Philippines two years ago and soon she was hosting a campus music video program on IBC 13. She also came out in a Jollibee commercial. When she heard that the Disney Channel was holding auditions for "Disney Buzz," she grabbed the opportunity. However, it was a nerve-wracking process since it took three call-backs in six months before she got the nod in June last year. Now, she flies to Malaysia once a month to tape her show. She is based in Manila.

Her Disney involvement keeps her quite busy. Aside from the show, she also wants to work with the local Disney office in promoting the channel. She can do other TV shows as long as they are not competitive with Disney, but with her present load, she hasn't had time to do that. She is also interested in doing theater.

Karen is ideal for the Disney channel because of her wholesome personality and vibrant look. We were quite surprised when she told us she was already in her 20s. We thought all the while she was still a teenager. She would like to finish her college degree in the Philippines. She was taking a business course in Los Angeles when she left.

Karen is a certified Disney fan. She likes the classic cartoons like "Sleeping Beauty" and "Mickey Mouse." Of the newer ones, she likes "Lion King." Since she lived in the Los Angeles area, it was easy for her to spend time in Disneyland, where her favorite ride is the Matterhorn, a rollercoaster ride. She avoids the Haunted Mansion because she gets scared of the monsters that pop up while you're inside.

### 'Project Greenlight'

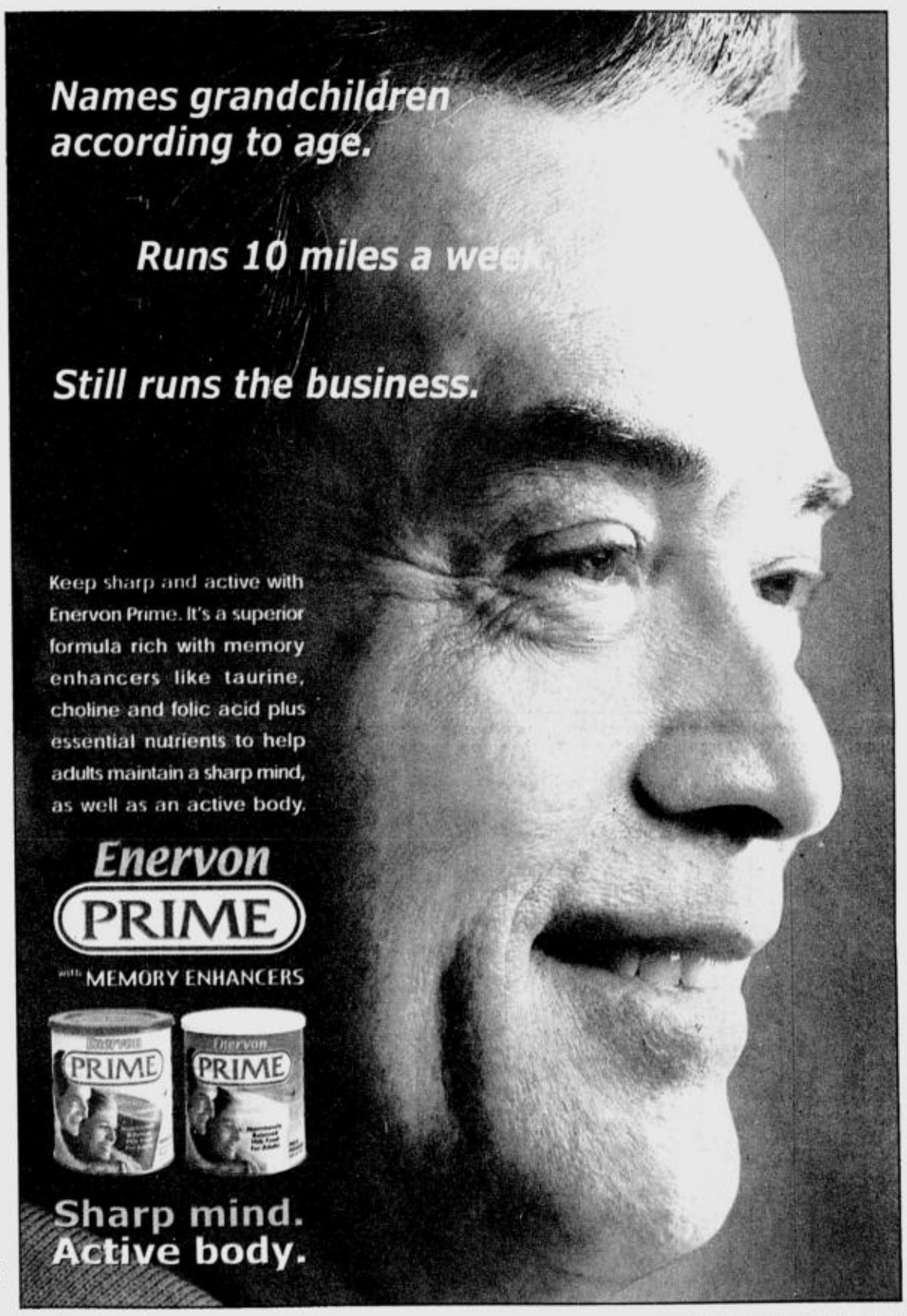
Everybody knows Ben Affleck and Matt Damon as actors. Affleck is currently appearing in "The Sum of All Fears" while Damon is starring in "Bourne Identity." The two, however, are also screenwriters. In fact, they won an Oscar for the script for "Good Will Hunting."

**KAREN Borja is one of three co-hosts on "Disney Buzz."**

The two wanted to give a break to screenwriters who find it hard to sell their scripts to the studios. The result: Project Greenlight. The two invited interested writers to send in their scripts via the internet and whoever was chosen would get $1 million to shoot the film.

The contest attracted about 10,000 entries. Pete Jones, a former insurance salesman, won over everyone with his script titled "Stolen Summer," "a coming-of-age story about an eight-year-old Irish child who befriends a leukemia-stricken Jewish boy." During the summer, they try to find a way to get the dying boy to heaven.

While the movie was being conceptualized and shot, HBO produced a 12-part documentary on the making of the movie, a close-up look at the filmmaking process. The series will premiere on Cinemax-Asia on July 22 at 8 p.m., with new episodes being aired every Monday at 8:30 p.m.

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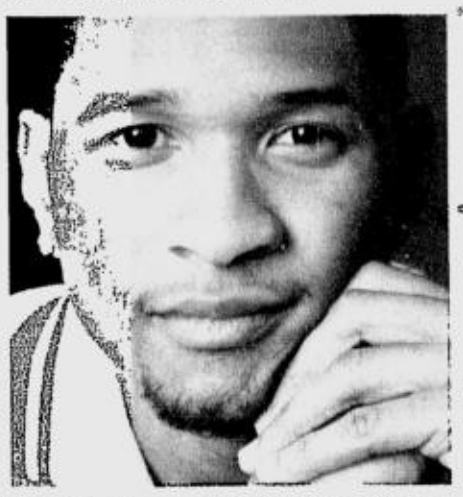

USHER. Acting gave him emotional release.

# Usher keeps an eye on the long term

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Usher had just established himself as a young prince of R&B with his best-selling sophomore disc, "My Way," when—at 20 years old—he decided to take a break from music to try his hand at acting.

### No pressure

There was pressure from his record company to put out a follow-up quickly, he says.

But Usher was trying to do more than stay hot for the moment.

"This is a career, in my opinion, that has gradual steps. You can't have it all at once," he says. "You see a lot of artists that come in, sell major records, tour and they burn out . . . I've been taught from the school of Michael Jackson that you give them a hot album, take a step back two years, let them miss you."

Now 23, Usher is enjoying Jacksonesque success with his third disc, "8701."

It has sold more than 3.5 million copies in less than a year, producing the No. 1 singles "U Remind Me" and "U Got It Bad," and his latest hit, "U Don't Have to Call." He won his first Grammy earlier this year: best male R&B performance for "U Remind Me."

The star's first headlining tour begins this month.

### Ultimate entertainment

"You'll see me standing on my hands, doing frontflips, backflips, singing, dancing—entertainment, ultimate entertainment," says the Chattanooga, Tennessee, native, whose full name is Usher Raymond.

"Like the greats do it. You see Michael—at his best, he's always on stage. I feel like I'm at my best when I'm on stage. I'm most comfortable in front of an audience, performing and entertaining."

The comparison to Jackson isn't that far-fetched. Usher was a child star, making his recording debut at 15. He also borrows liberally from Jackson's signature dance moves and performs high-energy extravaganzas.

But Usher is far from a Jackson knockoff. He has his own smooth but street-wise style that has won fans of new and old-school R&B. He hasn't been hurt by sharp good looks and sex appeal; in his videos, he's often photographed shirtless.

That charisma helped him make the transition from music to Hollywood, where he has done TV acting and appeared in four films, from teen comedy "She's All That" to the urban high school drama "The Faculty." His most recent movie was last year's Western flop "Texas Rangers."

The move to Hollywood paid off better than music ever did, Usher says, even though he had sold millions of records.

### Financially stable

"I was straight for once in my life," he says. "I went out to Hollywood, did some movies, bought a house. I bought my mother a house, I bought some cars, I invested in a lot of stock. I really got myself financially stable so I could get right back to what I love doing the most."

Besides being lucrative, he says, acting gave him emotional release during a trying time.

"I had a few deaths in my family. My grandmother had passed, a best friend of mine died from cancer, my dog died . . . It was just a lot of drama in my life," he says.

"When I got into acting, it was like now I can actually take these emotions and pour them out into each one of these characters . . . This was my first opportunity to cry and really open up, because that's what really was going on inside of me."

Usher also was dealing with his first heartbreak; he had fallen in love and had a painful breakup.

"I always said it would never happen to me. And the next thing I know, I was like sprung over love," he says. "I don't think I'll ever go that far again. It was weird, because I sort of fell into love, and now I think I'm in a better position where I can walk into love."

The heartache was the basis for much of what's on his latest disc.

USHER/ p. E2


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CITRÉ SHINE

# Director Adrian Lyne spins a fresh fatal attraction in 'Unfaithful'

By David Germain

BEVERLY HILLS, California—There's no easy way to end a tale of adultery, director Adrian Lyne knows from experience.

In "Fatal Attraction," Lyne orchestrated a literal blood bath for Glenn Close. In Lyne's "Indecent Proposal," Robert Redford makes a noble sacrifice, cutting Demi Moore loose to return to her husband.

### Ambiguity

Lyne chose ambiguity for his latest tale of marital infidelity, "Unfaithful," starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane as a couple whose cozy life is wrecked by the wife's fling with a young Frenchman (Olivier Martinez).

Without giving away any of its twists; "Unfaithful" closes with an open-ended finish leaving audiences to debate the couple's fate after two hours of deceit, distrust and jealousy.

It was one of the things the British-born Lyne liked about the screenplay, but he also shot a different ending at the urging of distributor 20th Century Fox, which felt audiences needed a more straightforward resolution.

After a round of preview screenings with the studio's preferred ending, Lyne decided at the last minute to switch back to the uncertain conclusion.

### Main home

"I always sort of hankered after that ending, so eventually, I got my way," Lyne, 61, said in an interview at his secluded Beverly Hills home. (When not working on a film, Lyne and his wife, Samantha, live at their main home in Provence in the south of France.)

"I thought this way was nice because it treated the audience with some intelligence, really, because it's terribly easy to underestimate the audience. I think studios do it a great deal, actually. With this ending, I thought it would create a controversy, an argument, which I like."

Never a critics' darling, Lyne has grabbed huge audiences. His biggest hit, "Fatal Attraction," had audiences buzzing over how they might handle an obsessive extracurricular lover in their own lives. "Indecent Proposal" prompted couples to muse about willingly loaning a spouse for a night of sex for $1 million.

His films have aroused ("Flashdance"), puzzled ("Jacob's Ladder"), shocked or even angered audiences ("9 1/2 Weeks"). He's been accused of sexism and exploiting or objectifying women, complaints that "Unfaithful" co-star Lane thinks reflect more on Lyne's critics than the director himself.

### Flattering

"I think it's very flattering to Adrian to think they would expect him to be some kind of sociologist," Lane said. "He's a poll taker. He likes people to expose themselves in their reaction to a film."

Unlike the titillation factor of Lyne's earlier films, "Unfaithful" is a hushed thriller that does feature sex and violence but is told more through the main characters' awkward silences.

"It's not a one-liner movie. It's a bit of a hard sell because it's normal people, 'The Ice Storm' kind of filmmaking, which is literate, smart and subtle," Gere said. "You identify with all the characters. There are no villains, no screeching stalkers. There's no buying sex, no trick to it. We're pretty much looking in the mirror here.

"Adrian's been in that territory before of fearlessly diving in on difficult material. I think a maturity's set in in him where he's really able to explore and be both bold and authentic at the same time."

Whatever reaction "Unfaithful" provokes, it's bound to be an easier time than Lyne had on his last movie, "Lolita," an updated adaptation of the Vladimir Nabokov novel that starred Jeremy Irons as Humbert Humbert, who carries on an affair with his 12-year-old stepdaughter.

Stanley Kubrick filmed an earlier version of "Lolita," starring James Mason as Humbert and Peter Sellers as his foil, Claire Quilty.

### Memorable

While Kubrick's version came to be regarded as a memorable Sellers black comedy, Lyne's "Lolita" was caught in an outcry over child sexual abuse in the mid-1990s, as new laws arose to fight kiddie porn on the Internet.

No US studio would touch the film, on which Lyne spent six weeks in the editing room with a lawyer to excise scenes that could pose legal trouble.

While it played in theaters overseas, "Lolita" initially aired on Showtime in the United States in 1998 before getting a limited theatrical run later that year.

"At the time, it was depressing, but I think it was also naive to expect any of the studios to release a movie that's essentially about pedophilia. Especially in that time frame. I would have said a year ago that you could have released the movie then, but now of course, it would be a disaster again because of the Catholic Church," Lyne said, referring to the sex-abuse scandal involving priests.

### Turmoil

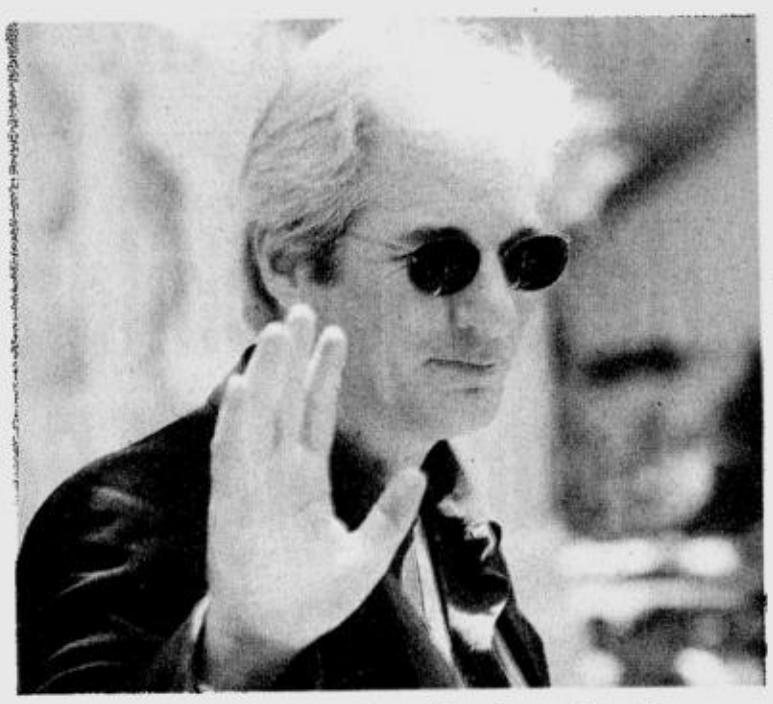
After the turmoil over "Lolita," Lyne settled on "Unfaithful," a project he'd mulled for years, inspired by Claude Chabrol's "La Femme Infidele," which Lyne saw three decades ago.

Like his countrymen Ridley and Tony Scott, Lyne started off making commercials in England in the 1970s before turning to feature films with the 1980 teen drama "Foxes," starring Jodie Foster.

Most of his films deal with sexual obsession, and Lyne jokingly concedes that carnal matters are a fixation of his own.

"I suppose it must be," Lyne said. "I think the interesting thing is you can make hopefully sort of a Hitchcockian thriller like 'Fatal Attraction,' but what people take away from it is the sex. They remember the minute of Michael Douglas having sex with her over the sink or in the elevator. That's what people take away.

"Because I guess that's what people are interested in. They are interested in sex. Why wouldn't they be?" *AP*



RICHARD Gere waves during the photocall on the occasion of the presentation of "Unfaithful" in Madrid.

GERE (center), French actor Olivier Martinez, left, and director Adrian Lyne.

# 'Thank God, I'm alive!'

FACE TO FACE

*Inday Badiday*

HAVE you experienced feeling sorry for a person because of some very terrible things that happened, only to realize that the person you're being sorry for is you? Or, you're driving your car on a freeway and, suddenly, as you look to your left, you see yourself looking at yourself from the front seat of another car?

### Hospital bed

Two Sundays ago, I was all set to squeeze the last sunrays out of summer—but I found myself lying on a hospital bed with weird, plastic tubes piercing my wrist, attached to a huge vial containing some strange liquids.

I was supposed to be sunning myself on a beachfront in Cavite but, instead, I was in St. Luke's Medical Center being advised by my doctor to undergo dialysis—or I'd die in a matter of days.

The words bizarre and grotesque couldn't adequately describe, much less define, the riot of feelings that rode a rollercoaster in my heart!

It all began several weeks back, when I woke up in a cold sweat in the wee hours of the morning and I was rushed to the hospital because of what I wrongly assumed to be the overreaction of an overzealous doctor. I had to go through a series of tests—but, after downing several pills, I felt better and insisted on going home.

When I related to my nephew, who is a doctor, what happened to me, he arranged for me to have an executive check-up. I gladly and gratefully obliged. After all, I had this silly skin problem I wanted to consult a doctor about. And I also experienced occasional dizziness, which I dismissed as the fruit of my hypochondria, fed by an overactive imagination.

### Orders

At the back of my mind, I was speculating on what activities the doctors would order me to stop doing, or food to avoid eating, or vices to say goodbye to forever. At the time, I was already devising clever ways and means to get around their orders.

The check-up required me to be admitted to the hospital first thing Saturday morning and stay there up to a good part of Sunday. I sniffed at that. As I said, I wanted to go to the beach on Sunday. I rang up the doctor's secretary and very politely but firmly told her of my desire to be home by Saturday night. She just as politely but not very firmly said she'd tell the doctor about my request.

She shouldn't have bothered. Because when the doctor saw the result of just the first set in a series of tests they did to me, she couldn't believe how so very sick I was. She wondered aloud how I was still able to walk around, given the gravity of my situation. She didn't know it but I actually rolled my eyes to high heavens when she said that—especially when she ordered the same test done all over again, just to make sure there was no error.

Goodbye, beach!

### Worst fears

All the tests confirmed my worst fears. And, as my doctor recited my litany of ailments, I felt sicker and sicker. I couldn't understand the Greek that doctors speak but, from the little I gathered, I learned that my kidneys didn't want to work anymore because my diabetes had exhausted them. In other words, a lot of bad things—like toxins—couldn't flush out of my system and had made a home in my blood.

Immediately, my doctor recommended two operations—the creation of AV fistula and a dialysis catheter insertion. Don't ask me what they mean, all I know is that they did something to where my neck meets my right shoulder, which tied me up to a gizmo that had the words arterial and venal pressure. They also tinkered with the opposite side of my left elbow which was, the doctor said, the exit and entry point of the pins and needles they'd prick into me each time they cleansed my blood. (If you don't understand a word of that, don't worry. I don't either.)

At first, I vehemently thumbed down the very idea of dialysis. It took the very matter-of-fact lecture of my doctor-nephew for me to finally say yes to the procedure. You see, at the time, I thought the doctors had already told my family that I was going to die and they just didn't know how to break the news to me. I kept badgering them to tell me the truth, but they didn't know which truth I wanted to hear.

Imagine how I felt when my nephew said in not so many words something like this: "You are not dying. We can save you. Help us save you. If you were dying and could no longer be saved, I'd tell you. I wouldn't con you. I wouldn't recommend any painful and expensive procedure if I knew you'd die anyway, or if I knew you'd just be a vegetable. But I know we can save you. You just have to allow us to do that. Otherwise, it's your stubbornness that will kill you."

### Operations

I relented. They immediately scheduled the operations for Tuesday. But, for whatever reason, they didn't happen. That made me again refuse to push through with the operations. I figured, had God wanted me to be operated on, He wouldn't have allowed any delay.

My nephew talked to me once more, and I relented again. The first dialysis was done on Friday. It took three hours. The second was on Saturday. Three and a half hours. The third was last Monday. Four hours. And, just before I checked out from the hospital last Wednesday, I was again dialyzed for four and a half hours. Since then, my schedule for dialysis has been every other day.

Honestly, I thought I was going to die. Or to be more honest about it, there was a part of me that, in fact, told me to decide to die.

I was ready to go. My long deceased mom and Unggay, my personal secretary who has since joined the Lord, visited me in my dreams. And they escorted me to a place where there were a lot of cotton balls. Or were those clouds? And there were trees. Lots of trees all around.

When I related this to my family and friends, they read some mystical-supernatural meanings into it. Like, Mom and Unggay were already fetching me because I might lose my way in the so-called Great Beyond. (Well, that should make sense—since I had lost my way lots of times here, I'm certainly not confident that I'll find my way *there*!)

### Hallucination

The nurses discarded the idea as just mild hallucination on my part. I also could have sworn I saw everybody around me crying—all the doctors and nurses and my family and relatives and friends shedding copious tears! It was good that things didn't get any worse than that. Because, one of my nurses said, there were others who went berserk because their hallucinations made them lose their marbles.

But, at one point there, I did think I was really going to die. In fact, I already gave my last instructions to my personal assistant—"*Alam mo na kung ano ang damit na susuutin ko, ha? At sabihin mo sa kanila, ang gusto ko, sunugin niyo ako. Ayokong kainin ang katawan ko ng mga uod.*"

At another point, I thought I had already gone. I was in deep sleep. When I opened my eyes, there was Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, praying over me. I believed I was dead and Fr. Jerry, a family friend, was already performing the final rites! I managed to ask him, "Father, why?" He smiled. I thought, "He heard me, so I must still be alive!" Or could it be that I was really dead but came back to life at the precise moment that the priest was giving me the last sacraments?

### Urgent entreaty

After that, I didn't want to die anymore. I remember, the nurse was waking me up one morning but I still wanted to go on sleeping, so I ignored her. She left for a while, only to return with a more urgent entreaty for me to wake up. I continued to pay no heed. She then said, "If you don't open your eyes, you will slip into a coma." Of course, I opened them, pronto!

I wasn't able to sleep for two straight days after that. I suddenly didn't want to die anymore! So I didn't want to fall asleep—to the utter frustration of my watchers, especially Bo, who vowed to himself he'd grab a few winks only when I was also asleep.

Speaking of Bo, I have never appreciated him as much as I did this time. He was there all the time for me. He even wore a hospital gown over his shirt and held my hand all throughout the time that I was being operated on—which lasted for more than three hours.

I was in the hospital for 12 days. I knew I was already getting well when I began to want a manicure and a pedicure. I mean, life is colored fingernails! I need to find time to think about such profound questions like lifetime dialysis or kidney transplant—but only after I get my nails buffed, okay?

### Dialysis sessions

Before I checked out of the hospital, my doctor told me to be a good girl—meaning I shouldn't stress myself, go to my dialysis sessions religiously, and stick to my recommended diet at all times. She also cautioned me to take it easy, even as she said I could go back to my daily routine as soon as I felt I was ready. That means I'm back to my slot on dzMM on Monday.

Of course, I'd like to express my sincerest thanks to my doctors—Dr. Dinna Cruz, my nephrologist, Dr. Jane Gaston, my endocrinologist, Dr. Antonio Sibulo, my cardiologist, Dr. Estrera, my anesthesiologist, and Dr. Manapat, the head surgeon.

I have a lot of other people to thank—especially the angels who helped ease my burdens. They know who they are and how grateful I am to them for everything. They are the reasons why I suddenly lost the desire to die. My appetite for death evaporated when I realized there are so many people I have to live for, if only because they love me so much and I can't yet afford to leave them behind.

Besides, I cannot die yet. I still have a lot of things to do. As the legendary Liz Taylor chirped in an interview after surgery that yanked out the nasty tumor lodged in the upper left side of her brain, "I've still got a lot of living left to do. It's not over. The Fat Lady has not sung her final, triumphant aria!"

# Usher keeps an eye on . . .

From p. E1

### Real experience

"I wrote songs about it. I meant it. I mean, 'U Got It Bad' was a real experience," says Usher, who is now dating Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas from the group TLC.

"That was like one of the worst periods of my life—so far," he adds with a laugh.

Usher not only helped write the songs on the disc, he picked the producers and had the most creative input he has ever had. He says the disc represents his maturation as an artist and as a man.

"I started at a very young age, so everybody that worked with me looked at me as a kid, the little baby Usher," he says. "Now all of a sudden, Usher's getting older and he's making decisions for himself, and he's standing up and he's fighting hard to get that respect."

Jimmy "Jam" Harris, who with partner Terry Lewis worked on the disc and has known Usher for years, said he was impressed by Usher's tenacity.

"He has a million ideas. He's just going to keep throwing ideas at you," says Harris. "He's a hardworking guy."

### Old mentor

Another producer on '8701" was Usher's old mentor Sean "P. Diddy" Combs. Usher's mother (and manager) had let her son stay with Combs when the 15-year-old needed to move to New York City to record.

Combs and Usher are still close—Usher croons on P. Diddy's latest hit, "I Need A Girl"—but Usher said living with Combs opened his eyes to the seedier side of the business.

"(It was) sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, that's what it was. It was a good eye-opener," he says. "It taught me a lot about business, it taught me a lot about hustle. It taught me a lot about determination and being aggressive ... but just how cutthroat and nasty a business it is."

Usher said that uncensored view of the industry made him vow to avoid drugs and treat people with respect.

"I've said I will never be like that. I will never sell myself to the devil like that."

He says with a laugh that he never did share the sordid stories with his mother. There's still a lot of kid in Usher Raymond.

"Hopefully I'll never be a grown man," he says. "I want to stay a kid forever." *AP*

# Joey and Rob Agbayani, brothers . . .

From p. E3

16mm video and moved on to 35mm. Presently, they use a VX 2000 Sony digital video camera format.

Joey's ultimate dream is for our country to get better because for him, there is no alternative. He prays for all leaders to be enlightened to do good for the country.

Asked where he lives, he chuckles, "All the unmarried ones in our family, Rob, Viktoria and me, still live with our parents. But we take care of all the expenses now!"

# Joey and Rob Agbayani, brothers and filmmakers

STREET SMART

*Mandy Navasero*

FORMER Pangasinan Gov. Aguedo Agbayani, 81, and his wife, Teresita, 70, are counting their blessings. Their children are all doing well. Marla, the eldest, works as an accountant in California. Luis is the current mayor of Sual, Pangasinan while Victor is governor.

Carmina is a pre-school teacher in New Zealand. Rob and Joey are filmmakers though both UP graduates of architecture. Pia is an interior decorator. and the youngest, Viktoria, is a recording artist.

### Shoot

I met Joey and Rob at a shoot for the Department of Tourism. The Philippines is packaged as a wedding destination, so the brothers were asked to create attractive visuals to sell the Philippines as such. Joey is Unitel's exclusive in-house director while Rob is with Pictureworks (a sister company of Unitel).

Joey and Rob both attended workshops in filmmaking at Mowelfund while they were in college. When Joey was 18, he produced, together with his brother Rob, a short film—"The Eye in the Sky" that was cited by the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines. It is about a boy who peeps through a microscope and sees creatures. From the point of view of these creatures, when they see a "big eye" above, they consider the "eye" their God.

The brothers did another short film feature—"Kidlat," a political satire about a politician being interviewed by a journalist.

"Kidlat" won the Urian Award for best short film in 1989 and participated in an Ampas tilt in Los Angeles, California, the "Oscar" for students' films.

### Script

Joey writes the script, Rob does the film editing, while sister Viktoria makes the musical scoring.

Joey's first commercial was voted Ad of the Year in 1991. The same year, they did an MTV for Viktoria's album. MTV Asia was searching for a Pinoy music video to be aired all over Asia and chose theirs. They seem to be doing the right stuff at the right time.

Joey and Rob started using a Super 8 camera, progressed to

JOEY/ p. E2

**VIKTORIA.** Musical scorer.

**ROB, left, and Joey at a shoot for the Department of Tourism promoting the Philippines as a wedding destination.**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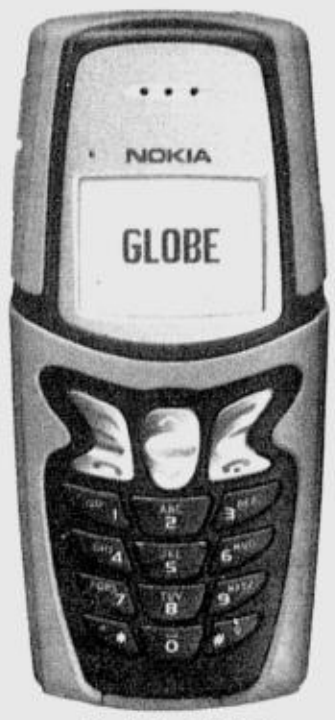


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*Only Hope by Mandy Moore* *Cry by Mandy Moore*
Keyword:onlyhope Keyword:cry

**Rio Moods / Antonio Carlos Jobim**
*The Girl From Ipanema*
Keyword:ipanema

**J To Tha Lo: Remixes / Jennifer Lopez**
*I'm Real*
Keyword:jlmreal

**Spider-man - OST / Various Artists**
*Bug Bytes by Alien Ant Farm*
Keyword:bugbytes

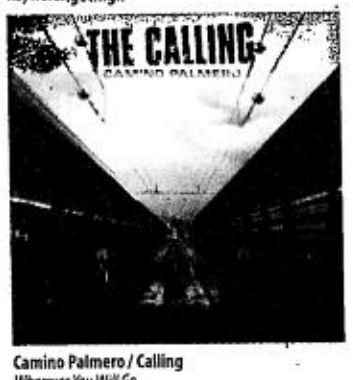
**18 / Moby**
*We Are Stars*
Keyword:wearestars

**R&B Xpress / Various Artists**
*Because I Got High by Afroman*
Keyword:igothigh

**Room For Squares / John Mayer**
*No Such Thing*
Keyword: nosuch

**Untouchables / Korn**
*Here To Say*
Keyword:heretosay

**Ashanti / Ashanti**
*Foolish*
Keyword:foolish




**Camino Palmero / Calling**
*Wherever You Will Go*
Keyword:youwillgo

**1 Am Sam - OST / Various Artists**
*Blackbird by Sarah McLachlan*
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| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **A Walk To Remember-OST** Various Artists | 6 | **Best Of Me** David Foster | 11 | **Be Not Nobody** Vanessa Carlton | 16 | **J To Tha Lo: Remixes** Jennifer Lopez | 21 | **Spider-man-OST** Various Artists |
| 2 | **Eminem Show** Eminem | 7 | **I Am Sam-OST** Various Artists | 12 | **Come Away With Me** Norah Jones | 17 | **Fever** Kylie Minogue | 22 | **Camino Palmero** Calling |
| 3 | **Chill Out Project** Various Artists | 8 | **Room For Squares** John Mayer | 13 | **Ashanti** Ashanti | 18 | **One 2 One** Gary Valenciano | 23 | **Revive** Gary Valenciano |
| 4 | **Untouchables** Korn | 9 | **Acoustic Love Songs** Side A | 14 | **Project 11-41** Slapshock | 19 | **Pinakamamahal** Aiza Seguerra | 24 | **Gutterflower** Goo Goo Dolls |
| 5 | **Josh Groban** Josh Groban | 10 | **Look Of Love** Diana Krall | 15 | **Reigne: Revised** Regine Velasquez | 20 | **Rio Moods** Antonio Carlos Jobim | 25 | **R&B Xpress VI** Various Artists |

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# SATURDAY*Special*

# Colin Farrell plays villain in 'Minority Report'

DUBBED as Hollywood's next important actor, Colin Farrell ("Hart's War," "Tigerland") stars opposite his hero Tom Cruise in Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, "Minority Report."

**Thrill**

"I grew up watching 'Top Gun.' I bawled my eyes out watching 'E.T.' when I was about five years old. So to work with Tom Cruise and Steven Spielberg was a big thrill," explains Farrell.

Directed by Spielberg from a story by "Blade Runner's" Philip K. Dick, the movie stars Cruise as John Anderton, a cop living in the year 2080. "Minority Report" is set in the futuristic judicial system under which killers are arrested and convicted before they commit murder! Anderton is the head of this Pre-Crime unit and gets himself accused of the future murder of a man he hasn't even met.

Farrell plays justice department official Danny Witwer, Anderton's rival. He describes Danny as "cocky and smug; he's there to do a job. Actually, he's there to infiltrate Anderton's department by pretending to be one of the lads. He'll step on anyone to get to the next step up the ladder, because he wants to get to the top. I really enjoyed playing the character."

FARRELL, right, with Cruise in "Minority Report."

**Great place**

"You can tell when you first meet Witwer that he would love Anderton's job, that he likes Pre-Crime and thinks it's a great place for him," says Spielberg.

Screenwriter Scott Frank notes that Witwer is motivated by faith. "He's got a religious background and really believes in psychics as pseudo-deities," says Frank. "He thinks they have religious value beyond their value in solving murders. And he goes after Anderton really zealously."

Farrell was impressed with the scale and the detail that went into "Minority Report's" production. He says, "It was a huge set. You walk into what looks like a warehouse that might have some food being stored in it, but it's got all these apartments and headquarters and LCD screens and gadgetry. It was amazing.

"The car that Lexus designed [for the film] was this prototype thing that cost a pile of money to make, and it was electrically run. It looks like something out of 'Blade Runner,' and I got to drive it. It was a great experience," adds Farrell.

**Award**

A native of Ireland, Colin Farrell came to the attention of American audiences in Joel Schumacher's "Tigerland." He won a Best Actor award from the Boston Film Critics for his portrayal of a roughneck Texan recruit in boot camp during the Vietnam War.

Most recently, he appeared with Bruce Willis in "Hart's War," and will soon be seen in "Phone Booth," a thriller that reunites him with director Joel Schumacher.

# Barry Manilow, Sting win honors for songwriting

NEW YORK—Barry Manilow—"I write the songs that make the whole world sing," as his own song says—was among artists honored recently when he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Manilow, whose ballads and hits include "Copacabana" and "I Write the Songs," said his induction was one of the highlights of his four-decade career.

**Scary job**

"It started off as a real scary job—trying to get hit records and compete with the youngest this and that, but these days it's more exciting for some reason," he said.

"I can dig deeper into experience and life. I started off only wanting to write songs. (Singing) was a beautiful accident." His award notwithstanding, most of Manilow's hits were written by other people. Beach Boy Bruce Johnston, for example, wrote 1975's "I Write the Songs." Others inducted included Sting, the former Police frontman who recently received a lifetime achievement award from the British record industry for a career that has included hits like "Every Breath You Take," "Fields of Gold" and "If You Love Somebody Set Them Free." Inductee Michael Jackson, who wrote hits such as "Billie Jean" and is one of the best-selling artists ever, was a no-show at the 33rd annual black-tie awards ceremony that drew artists like Neil Diamond, Linda Eder and Brian McKnight.

Oscar-winning composer Randy Newman and husband and wife team Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson, who have written some of Motown's finest songs, were also inducted.

**Legitimized**

"I feel like I have been legitimized," Simpson told Reuters before the ceremony. "Songwriting is always something that is not on the forefront but being in the Songwriters' Hall of Fame means we have done something that has lasted and that makes you feel awfully good." Stevie Wonder, Grammy-winning artist and songwriter, took home the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Wonder, who has been credited for helping make R&B and soul albums into cohesive artistic statements, said he hoped his songs could inspire and encourage.

"To receive the Lifetime Achievement Award is something I never expected but I take it with much respect. I'll cherish it and use it," Wonder told reporters. "As a songwriter, we have to encourage peace and write songs of love." Garth Brooks, who has been credited for bringing country music to a mass audience, received the Hitmaker Award, which has previously gone to Diana Ross and Chuck Berry, among others.

Carole King, who penned "(You Make Me Feel Like) a Natural Woman", with former husband Gerry Goffin and Atlantic Records executive Jerry Wexler, took home the Johnny Mercer Award for her history of outstanding creative works.

"I can't believe I'm 60 years old and I'm still writing songs and putting out records," King said. "Write from your heart, from your passions. If you think it's a difficult road, you're right, but don't give up." *Reuters*

STING. Lifetime Achievement awardee.

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# Fête de la Musique 2002 sets seven simultaneous concerts

By Nestor U. Torre

FÊTE de la Musique was first celebrated in France in 1982, and is now held in over 100 countries worldwide. It's a festival that gathers both professional and amateur musicians to play different kinds of music, both apart and together.

In Metro Manila, Fête de la Musique 2002 will be held tonight at the El Pueblo Real de Manila complex at Ortigas Center in Pasig City. The theme this year is "music for peace."

Seven concerts will be held simultaneously, with these varied musical configurations:

At Main Stage, Spy will play funk reggae tunes. At Outside, Brownbeat Allstars will perform neo swing.

At Rack's, Pinikpikan will do world music and performance poetry; Radioactive Sago Project will perform acid jazz and funk reggae; and Third World Project, Kapatid and Loquy will play acid jazz and rock funk.

At Sidebar, alternative acoustic music will be performed by Barbie's Cradle, Color It Red, Imago, Majofly, Eraserheads and Murder of Crows.

At Tequila Joe's, reggae/ska will be played by Brownman Revival, Bing, Neighbors, Hemp Republic and Pinoy Stories.

### Jazz

At San Mig, jazz will be performed by Tots Tolentino & Buhay, JR Cobb, Widouji, Wahjuara and Mother Earth Reunion.

At Strumm's, the featured groups are Blue Rats (blues), The Jerks (classic rock and blues), Ugoy Ugoy (funk and jazz/swing), Bo Razon and Grupo Eleggua (Afro-Cuban/latin), and Parliament Syndicate (acid jazz).

At the former space of Flavors and Spices, rock will be performed by Greyhoundz, Razorback, Sandwich, Chico Sci, Dicta Licence, Monkeyspank, Itchyworms, Happy Meal, Spectrum, Battery and Pan.

And on the street, there will be a hip-hop party with D-cay and Chill, the Makiling Ensemble, and Elements.

### Stunning line-up

This is stunning line-up of performers and musical styles that should attract all sorts of music lovers to the event. It is hoped that, aside form enjoying the one-night festival's "embarrassment of musical riches, the public will also give due attraction to its theme of peace.

Since 200, the Alliance Francaise de Manille has lent solid support to Fête de la Musique. Why so? Its Deputy Director, Philippe Bosquet, explains: "France has always been committed to promoting democracy, human rights and peace—and the Fête is one way of doing this.

### Language

And, why through music? "Music is a language everyone immediately understands, no matter what culture. it is a universal language that is able to reach out to all people."

The Fête is not a commercial event. It seeks to give musicians, especially amateur musicians, a chance to showcase their talent.

Bosquet elaborates, "We don't want to just repeat what is being heard on the radio. What we want is for talented but lesser-known artists to also be heard, and to be given a chance to play for a big crowd."

This year's showcase for 40 class acts is its biggest to date. Why so? Project director Len Francisco puts it well: "No artist needed to be convinced about supporting the call for peace." Let's hope the festival's prospective audience feels the same way!

RADIOACTIVE Sago Project will perform at Rack's tonight.

JR COBB will play jazz at SanMig.

# India's 'Spice Girls' out to shake subcontinent

By Jayashree Lengade

BOMBAY—With bare midriffs and skin-tight red trousers, India's answer to Britain's "Spice Girls" are out to conquer the subcontinent after being chosen from thousands of pop star wannabes.

### First album

India's first tailor-made all-girl music band, Viva, launched its first album three weeks ago and has set its sights on making the same splash in the "Indipop" music scene as the hugely popular Spice Girls did in Britain.

"We haven't reached there—yet," Mahua Kamat, 20, one of the band's five members, said as she tossed her frizzy red-tinged hair in a recent interview. "But we plan to make Hindi music famous internationally." So far, the "fantastic five" as the previously unknown artists are dubbed by their creator—media mogul Rupert Murdoch's Indian music television Channel V—seem to be hitting the right notes.

"It's (the album) the flavor of the month—certainly, among the top 10 numbers on our music charts. Requests are pouring in," Sumantra Dutta, chief operating officer of Radio City, a leading national FM music station, said on Wednesday.

### Fusion

The eight-song self-titled album features "Indipop"—a fusion of Indian classical sounds and western tunes sung in Hindi with some English thrown in.

A decade-old phenomenon, Indipop is a hip-shaking brand of music that has snared 15 percent of India's four billion rupee ($81 million) music market that is dominated by songs from Bollywood films.

Viva was created through an Indian version of the "Popstars" telent quest television programme that saw the creation of girl bands like "Bardot" in Australia, "HearSay" in Britain and "Sugar Jones" in Canada.

The band members, aged 18 to 24, were chosen after what one member called a "nerve-wracking" nationwide talent search in which at least 2,000 aspiring singers in six cities auditioned.

Viva's members—Pratichee Mohapatra, Neha Bhasin, Anushka Manchanda, Seema Ramchandani and Mahua Kamat—are hoping to capture young music fans with catchy tunes and an underlying theme: "You can achieve anything in life." "They've outsold all Hindi movie albums in the last three weeks since the album was released," said a senior official at Times Music, which brought out the album.

### Varied backgrounds

The five come from varied backgrounds. Ramchandani studied psychology while Mohapatra graduated in knitwear design and technology.

Manchanda, the youngest in the band at 18, said she was astonished when the jury chose her.

"I've a very hard voice, not a melodious one. Now I'm learning to make my voice husky, breathy and sometimes sweet," said Manchanda, who plays guitar and drums.

The girls have gone through gruelling voice, fitness, jazz dancing and beauty lessons so they can be "the hottest and most happening group around," band manager Nayanika Chatterji said. *Reuters*


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# Woody Allen reduces old partner to tears in NY court

By Jeanne King

ALLEN. Multimillion-dollar suit.

NEW YORK—Funnyman Woody Allen reduced his old friend and producer Jean Doumanian to tears on Tuesday as he told a Manhattan courtroom he had expected them to remain friends despite a multimillion-dollar lawsuit he filed against her.

**Eight films**

Allen, 66, who made eight films with the production company run by Doumanian and her companion, Jacqui Safra, since 1993, claims they owe him at least $12 million in profits.

Allen said the dispute began after his business manager told him he was not getting any answers regarding an audit.

"He's being stonewalled, and I said to her, isn't there anything we could do to facilitate this?" Allen testified. "Am I going to have to audit my friends? I never audited my friends." Doumanian and Safra claim Allen received a total of $19.5 million from Sweetland Films and in fact owes them money.

Allen said he told his advisers before filing the suit, "to do it as gentle as possible. But when you file a complaint it's not a love letter." Doumanian's lawyer, Peter Parcher, asked Allen to read from a handwritten letter he wrote to Doumanian shortly after filing the suit in May 2001.

**Scenario**

"This was supposed to be amusing—like a Tracy-Hepburn movie. In court by day, friends by night. What's gotten into you? We talked about this very scenario many times," Allen read from the stand in Manhattan Supreme Court.

"Did you say it?" Doumanian's lawyer Peter Parcher shouted.

"I wrote it," replied Allen. "She found it amusing." At that point, Doumanian started to weep.

Allen told jurors he still had respect and affection for Doumanian. *Reuters*

# Diether is more than just the boy next door

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

SOME viewers feel that Diether Ocampo is just a typical boy-next-door personality—pretty but bland. Upon closer inspection, though, you'll discover that his "hunky" looks complement his roguish, intense presence. Yes, he has depth and substance.

He grew up without a father and was brought up by his conservative grandmother and aunts. He needed a father to guide him during his formative years, but his dad died early so he had to cope and learn on his own.

**Inferiority complex**

"Maybe that's the reason why I developed a serious inferiority complex when I was growing up. I was confused. I didn't know what to do with my life. I was so full of insecurities then. I felt misunderstood. I was so shy!

"People encouraged me to try modeling because I had the height, but I was skinny then, so they urged me to improve my physique," Diether reveals.

Ironically, he took up physical therapy at De La Salle Cavite, though he never really liked the course. He wanted to pursue a career in Fine Arts because he liked to draw, but his family was against it.

"I quit school several times because I didn't know what I wanted to do. I bummed around for almost a year until *nag-sawa ako.*

"*Nahiya na ako sa sarili ko* so I begged my *lola* to give me one last chance. But she wanted to teach me a lesson. She said that if I wanted to study again, I had to spend for it," he recalls.

**Demands**

Determined to end his uncertainty and prove his worth, he worked as a member of the service crew in one of the leading fast food chains. "I enjoyed working there but I couldn't meet the demands of both my work and school, so I quit school again. Working felt good while it lasted but eventually, I became bored. I wanted to explore, and prove something to my *lola,*" Diether shares.

His restlessness led him to bartendering at Steel Bar, Quezon City. "I met directors and talent managers who urged me to try show biz," he says.

He auditioned for ABS-CBN's talent search in 1996 and was launched as a member of Star Circle Batch 2 a year and a half later.

His struggling days as a working student and "bum" gave him adequate angst and depth to portray dramatic roles. He's particularly proud of his role in "Maalaala Mo Kaya" in 1998, where he played a young man desperately bent on becoming an actor.

"The role was a wanna-be who couldn't get the right break, so he resorted to indecent means and granted sexual favors to prospective producers and directors. It was my first time to work with *direk* Rory Quintos and she really helped me improve. I wanted to prove that I was not just a ham actor. I wanted to show that I could really act," he shares.

OCAMPO. Intense presence.

He also credits his stints on the soap operas, "Mula sa Puso" and "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" for honing his acting talent.

**Strategic pairings**

Strategic pairings with G. Toengi and Claudine Barretto made him a familiar face among female viewers, and tested his potential as a leading man. He was ripe for mature and challenging roles but he was waiting for the right project.

His patience gave him not only the right project, but the opportunity to be paired with Maricel Soriano in "Soltera."

This year, he romanced Rosanna Roces in "La Vida Rosa." Scriptwriter Armando "Bing" Lao and director Chito Roño admit that they were skeptical about Diether's acting ability. But they quickly add that their doubts turned out to be completely unfounded. Director Roño feels that Diether's boyish vulnerability enhanced Dado's character.

Diether believes that his director's penchant for real, exact emotions and details benefit actors in the long run. "Direk Chito brings out the best in his actors. Our performance becomes more textured. He wants us to look good. Sure, working with him is not an easy job. *Napiga ako,* but my performance was solid."

There's an intense, serious, sensitive, sensual side to Diether that makes him dangerous and vulnerable at the same time—clearly, not just a typical boy-next-door leading man!


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ZUBIRI. Head-turner.

# Diana Zubiri brings wet look back

REMEMBER the wet look popularized by former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz in the mid-'70s? Titillating without showing everything, it was imitated by other actresses, but no one came near to La Diaz's allure.

**Shapely**

Seiko Films' new jewel, Diana Zubiri, revives the wet look via "Bakat," written by Lualhati Bautista and directed by Jun Posadas. It's the wet look and more . . . wild and sizzling, as only the shapely, fair and smooth-skinned Diana can ignite.

Diana is almost always wet in "Bakat" for reasons justified in the plot about a young girl "*na nawawala sa sarili.*" The wet look outlines the shape of her body, revealing its contours, "*aninag, marka, bakat.*"

**Award-winning actors**

Co-starring with Diana and Rodel Velayo are award-winning actors Tommy Abuel and Ana Capri, and former Seiko sex symbol Rita Avila, now a dramatic actress.

Diana Zubiri made heads turn with her first starrer, "Itlog." Seiko Films is noted for naughty titles.

Screenwriter Bautista, whose credits include "Bata . . . Bata," "Gapo," and "Dekada," says "Bakat" shows the importance of sex in a relationship. She used rather sharp and frank dialogue without meaning to offend, just as director Posadas staged realistic love and sex scenes. All in the name of putting the film's message across clearly, effectively.

# Destiny's Child explains 'Nasty Girl'

NEW YORK—Destiny's Child's new single "Nasty Girl," which chastises scantly clad women and tells them to "put some clothes on," may seem contradictory coming from a trio known as much for their bare midriffs as their soulful sound.

But the group says there's a difference between dressing sexy and dressing nasty.

"A classy girl can wear something classy and still be sexy," singer Beyonce Knowles told the Associated Press.

"It doesn't mean you can't wear your stomach out or wear a short skirt. That doesn't mean you're nasty, because you dress sexy. It's how you carry yourself," she added.

**Turmoil**

Knowles, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams were dressed casually as they celebrated the release of their book "Soul Survivors: The Official Autobiography of Destiny's Child" at a party in midtown Manhattan. In the book, they discuss some of the turmoil that has engulfed the group—three former members left under acrimonious terms—and about their childhood.

"We got a chance to put all the rumors to rest. I think it gives people the chance to know Destiny's Child on a personal level," Williams said. "Like us growing up—how some of us dealt with bullies and self-esteem. I know for me, I had no father figure . . . it's a lot of things people will know and learn about." *AP*

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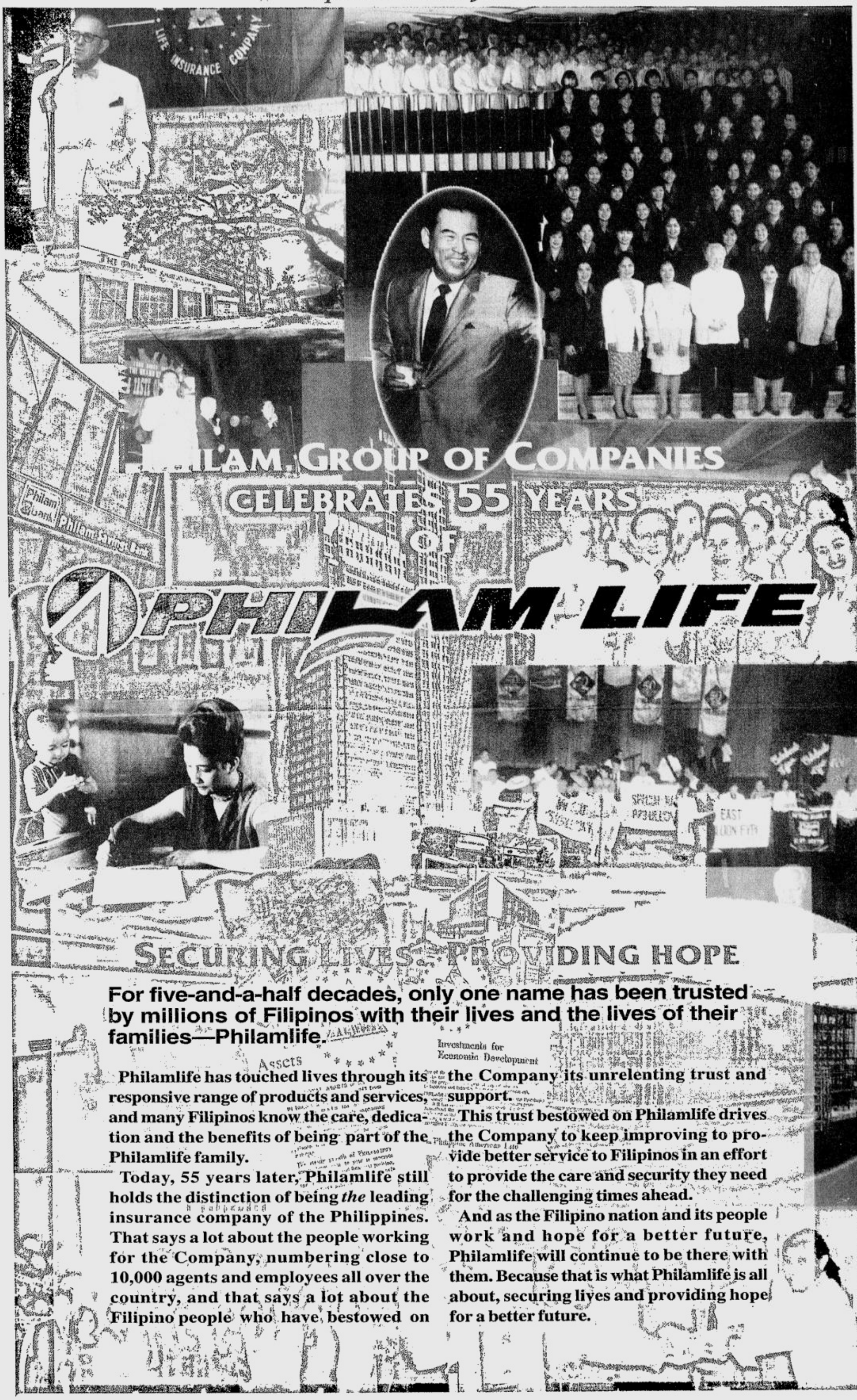


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This trust bestowed on Philamlife drives the Company to keep improving to provide better service to Filipinos in an effort to provide the care and security they need for the challenging times ahead.

And as the Filipino nation and its people work and hope for a better future, Philamlife will continue to be there with them. Because that is what Philamlife is all about, securing lives and providing hope for a better future.

PHILAM LIFE · PHILAM INSURANCE · PHILAM CARE · PHILAM PLANS · PHILAM SAVINGS BANK · PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT · PHILAM PROPERTIES · AIG Global Card Company (Philippines), Inc.

AIG

AIG is the leading U.S.-based international insurance and financial services organization and the largest underwriter of commercial and industrial insurance in the United States. Its member companies write a wide range of commercial, personal and life insurance products through a variety of distribution channels in approximately 130 countries and jurisdictions throughout the world.

# Caring for the children of Basilan

TERRORISM has become a real and no longer unimagined concern for most of us after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. But for many Filipinos, especially children, living in the province of Basilan, this concern has been with them way before September 11 and continues to this day as they grapple with living their lives in constant fear and uncertainty.

The children are affected the most. Not only have they been robbed of their innocence by the violence that pervades Basilan, their future has become increasingly at risk because most of them are too weak and hungry to go to school. These children also don't have the money for transportation to the schools, books, pencils, uniforms or nourishment to keep them focused on their studies.

This reality has spurred Philamlife into establishing the Aid For Basilan Children (ABC) Fund Drive. In partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress, Philamlife hopes to raise funds for the educational support of the children of Basilan. Donations will be channeled to provide school materials, nutritious meals and transportation fare so that they can go to school the whole year round.

"Violence has robbed them of their innocence. We must make sure that their future will not be taken away as well," says Philamlife chairman and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr.

## Messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (PHILAMLIFE) on the celebration of its 55th Anniversary.

Through the years, your company has stood by its mission to provide a comprehensive range of services that are responsive to Filipino needs.

In this exceptionally trying time, we need to cooperate for our country to move forward. An integral part of our bid to defeat poverty is economic development, with a conscious bias in favor of the poor and disadvantaged. We want to institutionalize means by which ordinary people can save and prepare for life's eventualities. I encourage every member of your organization to continue to secure the future of our countrymen.

Let us continue working together in our fight against poverty and in our efforts to steer our country towards greater peace, progress and stability.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Greetings to the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife)!

Fifty years, Philamlife has operated in the Philippine insurance market and in all that time has maintained its hold as the undisputed leader of the industry. With such a feat, words need no longer be said. By their consistent patronage, the public has already affirmed that this company is responsive to its clients' needs, capable of meeting their expectations and are worthy of their unfailing trust.

Again, my heartfelt congratulations to Philamlife.

Mabuhay and more power!

EDUARDO T. MALINIS
Insurance Commissioner

The celebration of the 55th anniversary marks great significance to Philamlife. First and foremost, it marks the many years of providing financial security to the Filipino people. Philamlife has continuously led the innovation of comprehensive and diversified financial products and services and the delivery of high quality service to a broad market spectrum: from the mass market to the specific market niches, such as the Filipino-Chinese community and the Overseas Filipino workers.

Our 55th anniversary not only marks our company's many years of dedicated service, but also our renewed commitment and steadfastness in delivering our promises. Through all the changes, challenges and uncertainty that the world has faced throughout the years, Philamlife and its parent company American International Group of Companies (AIG), have proven their financial strength and stability by staying true to commitments: to provide protection, to add value to our policyholders' financial assets, and to secure their families' future.

To all our policyholders and clients, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your loyalty and continued support. Because of you and your families, Philamlife remains to be the market leader in the life insurance industry.

To our dear agency and employee force, I thank and salute you for your commitment to service excellence. The services you render bring delight and peace of mind to our fellowmen.

Cheers to the 55 years of Philamlife!

JOSE L. CUISIA JR.
Philamlife President and CEO

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# Expanding Philamlife's wings

DURING the early 1980s, Philamlife sales executives assembled a group of young managers every Thursday in a bid to chart Philamlife's future as a company.

From these informal gatherings sprung forth the idea of diversification. After four decades of ruling the life insurance and general insurance industries, Philamlife was poised to spread its wings and offer products and services that were beyond its existing menu.

Philamlife didn't look far to find a model for its dream of diversification. Philamlife's parent company—the American International Group (AIG) —had been a leader in terms of diverse offerings since its initial stages in 1919.

### Philam Insurance Company

First to be formed was the Philam Insurance Company—a consolidation of three non-life companies operating since the 1960s, Philippine American General Insurance Company, Philippine American Accident Insurance Company and The Philippine American Assurance Company were melded into one direct operating company that now has assets amounting to P10.7 billion and premiums reaching close to P1 billion by the year 2000.

### Philam Care Health Systems

Philam Care followed suit, borne out of a partnership with Philippine Health Systems Inc., a fledgling health maintenance organization (HMO) company at that time.

Three years after it was established, Philam Care grabbed the top position in the HMO industry and has remained on top ever since. With its recent partnership with the largest HMO in the United States, UnitedHealthCare, it is expected to continue dominating the HMO landscape.

### Philam Plans

When the government stopped the issuance of licenses to new life insurance companies in 1967, some companies that wanted to enter the life insurance industry came up with alternative products and called them pre-need plans.

As these pre-need companies continued to grow, they have also come into direct competition with some insurance products but do not face the same regulations and taxes as insurance companies. To be able to compete with pre-need companies on even terms, Philamlife established its own pre-need company in 1989. The company was Philam Plans.

By 1995, Philam Plans emerged as the fastest-growing pre-need company in the country, answering the growing demand for pension programs, education packages and memorial plans. In 2001, a total of 84,500 plans with an aggregate value of P7.8 billion were submitted. It has also gone beyond Philippine shores with presence in seven countries through brokers and general agents.

### Philam Asset Management

In line with its parent company's global thrust to engage in third-party asset management, and its objective of providing the market with expanded financial services, Philamlife set up Philam Fund Inc. by acquiring a controlling stake in mutual fund company Trinity Shares Inc. in September 1993.

It was then renamed Philam Asset Management Inc. in 1997 in line with AIG's global thrust to manage third-party assets. The company, equally owned by Philamlife and AIG Asset Management, now accounts for the biggest number of investors in the mutual fund industry with a share of 41.4 percent.

### Philam Savings Bank

Philam Savings Bank evolved from the AIG Finance Company which Philamlife established in 1989 to provide financing for the middle-income sector. In order to finance the growth of the company, Philamlife decided to convert it into a savings bank in June 1994.

The bank is growing remarkably with its present deposit base amounting to P3.8 billion, which is almost double its base in 2000 of P2 billion. Its mortgage operations has made it one of the market leaders in auto loans with new bookings posting P2 billion in 2001.

Philam Savings Bank envisions itself to become one of the best banks in terms of service delivery.

### Philam Properties

Decades after Philamlife ventured into real estate with the development of Philamlife Homes in Quezon City and Philamlife Village in Las Piñas, Philamlife again ventured into property development with the establishment of Philam Properties Corporation in 1995.

Proof of the commitment of Philam Properties to its mission now towers 46 floors above the Makati skyline—the Philamlife Tower, which houses a host of top multinational corporations and serves as the corporate headquarters of Philamlife.

Six other property developments have been completed all over the country, proving that Philam Properties is in the thick of reshaping the country's real estate business.

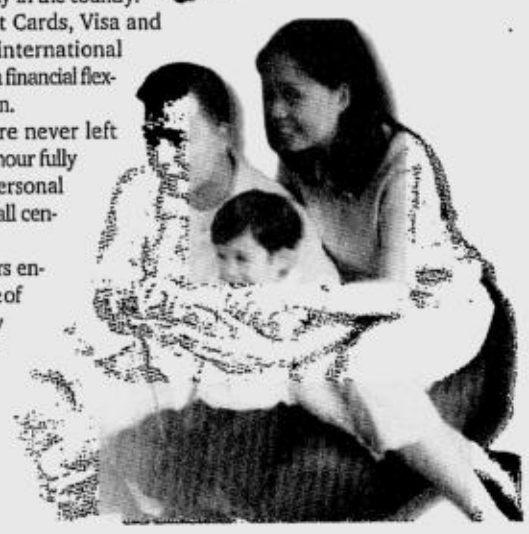
### AIG Credit Cards

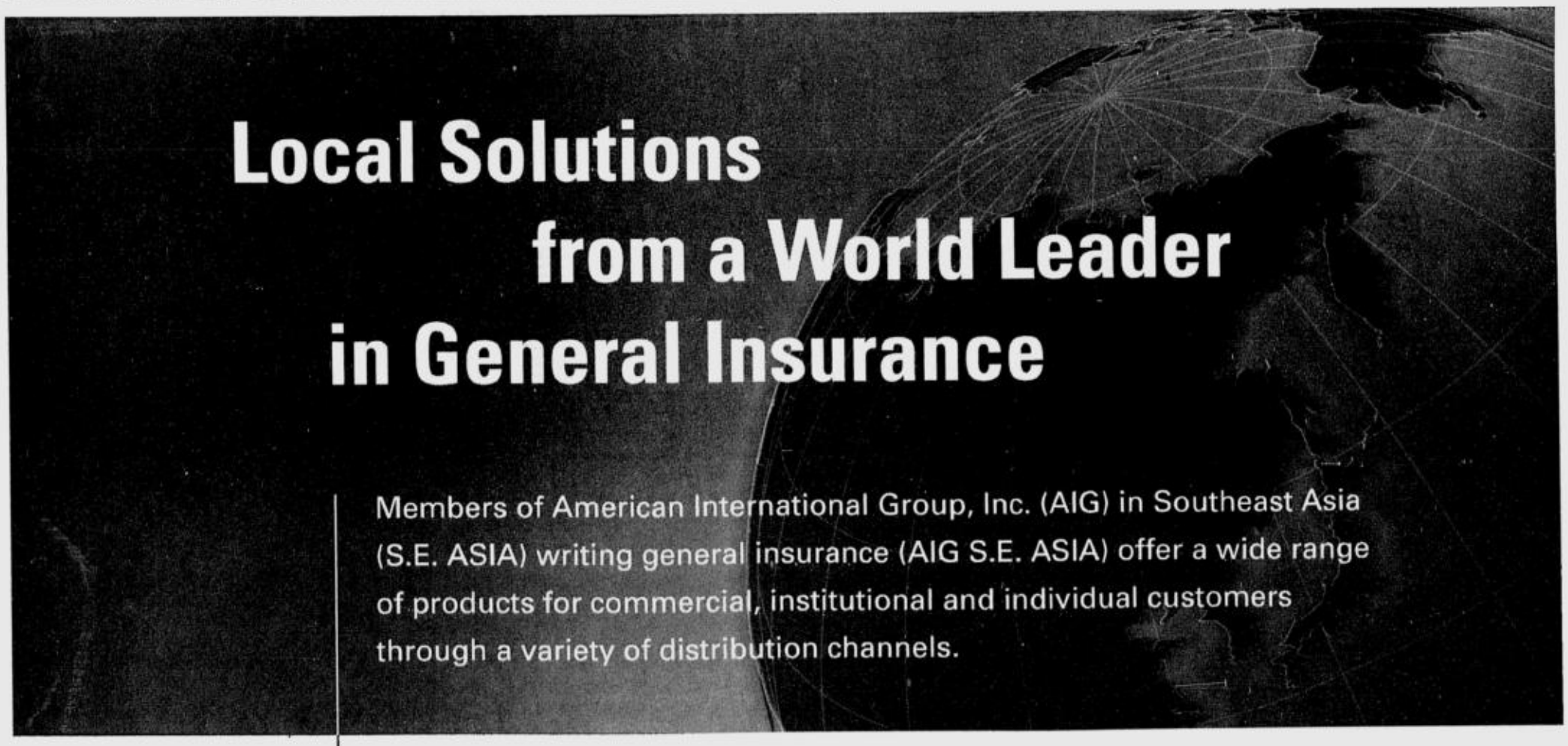
The AIG Credit Card was initially offered by the AIG Credit Card Company of the Philippines Inc. (AIGCCCPI) to policyholders of Philamlife, planholders of Philam Plans and to the public at the end of July 1998. In barely two years, and amid intense competition from other global credit card companies, AIGCCCPI is now the fastest-growing credit card company in the country.

The AIG Credit Cards, Visa and Mastercard, are international cards that offer both financial flexibility and protection.

Cardholders are never left alone with our 24-hour fully automated and personal customer service call center.

Non-cardholders enjoy the convenience of Application by Phone. By simply dialing 636-8700, they can generally obtain an AIG Credit card in just 72 hours.






AIG S.E. ASIA continuously introduces innovative products and professional services to cater to the local needs of customers. Well-known to professional risk managers across the region, AIG S.E. ASIA's operations include:

- AIU Insurance Company, Taiwan Branch;
- American Home Assurance Company;
- American International Underwriters, Ltd.;
- National Union Fire Insurance Co. of Pittsburgh, Pa.;
- New Hampshire Insurance Company;
- Philam Insurance Company, Inc.;
- PT Asuransi AIU Indonesia.

AIG is one of the world's leading corporations with a history of more than 80 years in the General Insurance business. AIG has the highest ratings from the principal rating services and is one of the world's most innovative companies, well positioned to capitalize on opportunities on behalf of its clients throughout the world.

AIG S.E. ASIA

**For more information, please call:**
Tel: (852) 2832 1800
Fax: (852) 2834 1748
Website: www.aiu.com

AIA Building, No. 1 Stubbs Road, Hong Kong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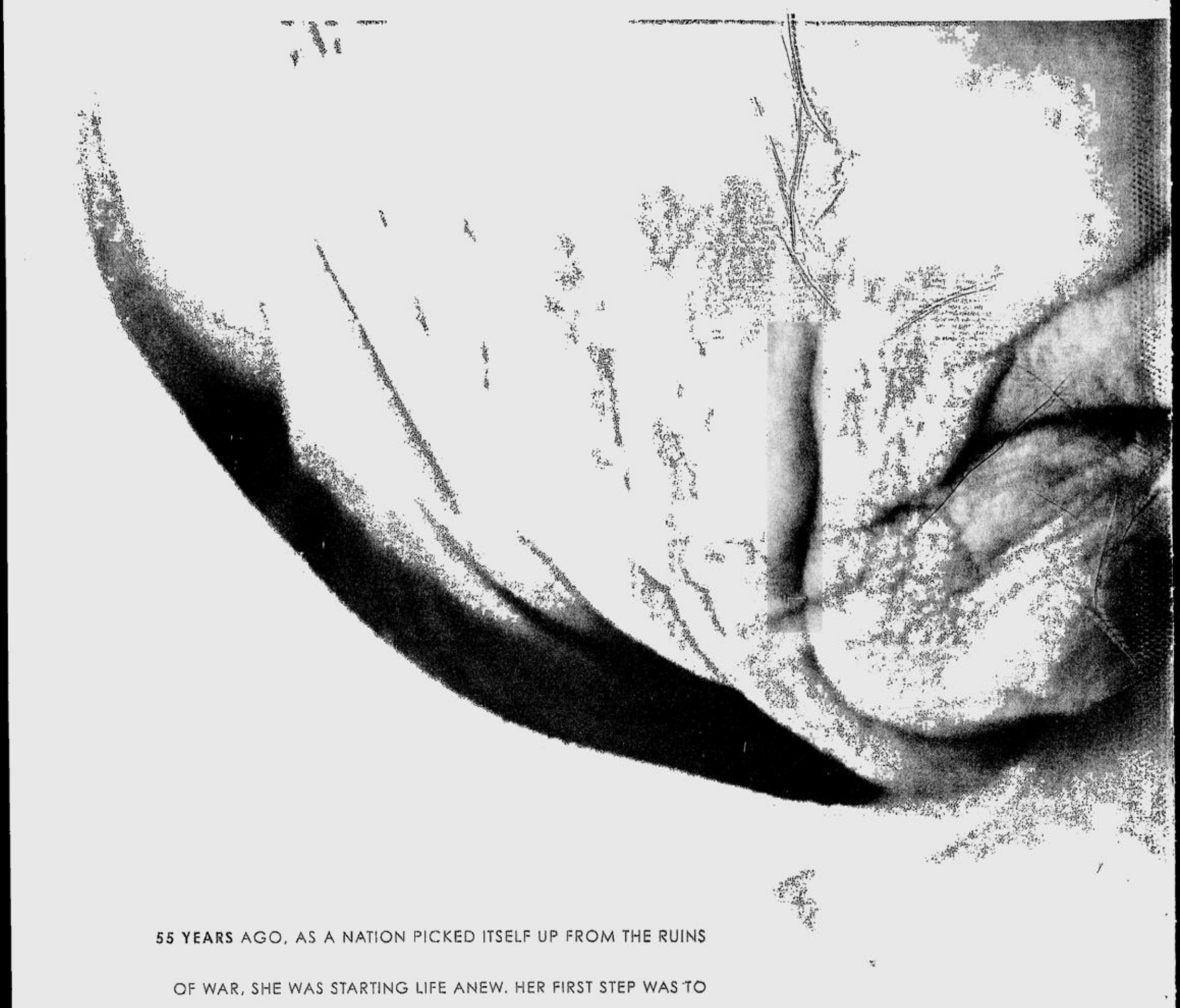

**55 YEARS** AGO, AS A NATION PICKED ITSELF UP FROM THE RUINS OF WAR, SHE WAS STARTING LIFE ANEW. HER FIRST STEP WAS TO ENTRUST HER LIFE SAVINGS TO AN INSURANCE POLICY FROM A COMPANY SHE HAD NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE PHILAM LIFE.

55 YEARS LATER, SHE TRUSTS THAT HER GRANDDAUGHTER'S NEEDS WILL BE ANSWERED BY THE SAME COMPANY. THAT'S PHILAM LIFE HAS GROWN BEYOND INSURANCE. TODAY, T GROUP OF COMPANIES OFFERS PROPERTY AND CASUALT HEALTH CARE, PRE-NEED PLANS, BANKING, MUTUAL FUN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND CREDIT CARD PRODUCTS.

FROM OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AS PHILAM LIFE, WE HAVE GROWN TO BE THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP. TOUCHING THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS, WE'RE COMMITTED TO GROWING EVEN BIGGER, STRONGER 55 YEARS HENCE.

**BECAUSE WE'RE GROWING AS YOU GROW.**

PHILAM
Group of Companies

PHILAM LIFE . PHILAM . ARE PHILAM PLANS PHILAM SAVIN

GS BANK PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT PHILAM PROPERTIES AIG CREDIT CARD

# Helping build the nation

THERE is no company in the insurance industry that comes close to the public and private sector investments of Philamlife.

As a major provider of long-term funds, Philamlife supports worthy projects through direct equity or loan investments and serves as one of the major catalysts in the growth of the Philippine economy.

By providing commercial loans to corporate clients to finance working capital requirements, plant expansion and modernization programs in key industries—food, beverage, manufacturing, transportation, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and banking, Philamlife has helped build more roads, generate power, spur export-oriented industries and hasten national and economic development.

The company has supported many infrastructure projects in the country. Philamlife has cooperated with the Public Estates Authority in funding the construction of the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road. The access has allowed faster flow of trade and services between Manila, the Export Processing Zone in Rosario, Cavite, and the industrial estates in the Calabarzon.

Philamlife, as an affiliate of the American International Group and with the AIG-Asian Infrastructure Fund's $70 million equity share, has also provided funding for the construction of the Metro Manila Skyway. Philamlife allotted $10 million for stage one of the project, which has helped considerably ease traffic at the South Luzon Expressway and made commuting more bearable for thousands of residents in southern Metro Manila, Laguna and Cavite.

An [illegible] investment is the B[illegible]ower Plant, which helped provide adequate power and energy to an industrializing economy that constantly needs additional sources of power.

Philamlife is one of the major partners in the development of the Light Industry & Science Park of the Philippines (LISP). LISP is the first industrial estate for the purpose of selling/leasing industrial sites and factory buildings for science and technology-based industries, which provide thousands of jobs for Filipino workers and millions of pesos in export revenues annually.

The Company also reaches out to individuals' financial needs by offering one of the best residential housing loan programs through its long-term fixed-rate mortgage loans. It has also extended over P1.3 billion to public school teachers for their children's educational needs as well as to help fund small-scale livelihood programs.

Through its savings mobilization and capital investments efforts, Philamlife's contributions to job creation and industry expansion have provided the country a much-needed boost as it gears up to compete with other Asian tigers in the global market.

Indeed, Philamlife remains one of the country's major partners in development. Throughout the years, it has continued to invest time, money and effort in building and rebuilding the nation and its economy.

Eduardo Grau, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer and son of the late Cesareo Grau, a former Vice President of Philamlife, comments, "We have Filipino employees, our clients are Filipinos, we therefore have to grow with the Philippine economy, with the nation."

***The Company also reaches out to individuals' financial needs by offering one of the best residential housing loan programs through its long-term fixed-rate mortgage loans.***

# Moving towards the future

PHILAMLIFE has surpassed 55 years and still stands as the No. 1 life insurance company in the country. But according to Philamlife president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr., the future holds more for Philamlife than just life insurance.

"What we want to become is to be similar to our parent company—a diversified financial services company. Even though life insurance will continue to be our principal product line, we want to diversify into related businesses," Cuisia said.

Philamlife now boasts of a robust stable of subsidiaries and affiliates such as Philam Life Insurance, Philam Plans, Philam Care, Philam Asset Management, Philam Savings Bank, Philam Properties and, the most recent, AIG Credit Card Philippines. Cuisia said there are plans to have an investment house in the future called Philam Capital.

Central to the success of these diverse businesses, according to Cuisia, is to have excellent people. "I think the most important lesson for me is the value of having very good people. In this kind of business, they are our most valuable assets."

But side by side with having the best people in management and the agency force, Cuisia also believes that the key to Philamlife's continued dominance of the insurance industry will be its ability to adapt to change.

"To reach its goal, Philamlife must become more technologically driven," Cuisia says. "Philamlife will need to look at acquiring technologies similar to those in more developed countries. Affiliates must also be able to keep up with Philamlife by accelerating their learning curve."

According to Romulo Cambaliza, SVP for Information Systems, aside from constantly upgrading its head-office systems to the most modern IT programs available, Philamlife is also currently going all out in giving remote agency branches online access to the company's main database.

"The networked online access allows these agencies to operate as if they're in the head office. They can perform the work done in the head office and, therefore, provide customers with faster and more efficient service," Cambaliza said.

Cuisia says that one of the changes that Philamlife will be implementing is the expansion of the distribution channels other than the agency force. Philamlife will be using direct marketing, telemarketing, home insurance facilities and other channels that are being used by banks within the next 10 years.

Philamlife's current focus in upgrading its technology ahead of competition will continue to be a critical factor in its success and its competitive edge. And according to Cuisia, this is an area that they are committed to stay ahead in.

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# Caring for the health of Filipinos

PhilAM Care Health Systems Inc. is the leading Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in the Philippines. But what it is today was spawned by an alliance of men with trail-blazing spirits and a result of generating partnerships of formidable strength and true grit.

In the early 80s, a group of prominent physicians led by the Dr. Benito Reverente Jr. organized the first-ever healthcare company in the Philippines called Philippine Health Systems Inc.—which had as its first clients corporate firms in need of medical services for their employees.

The fledgling company then joined forces with the formidable Philippine American Life Insurance Company in November 1984 to give birth to Philam Care Health Systems Inc. This fusion put together the excellent technological skills of the medical professionals and the sales and marketing ingenuity of the country's topnotch insurance company—bringing to life a virtual powerhouse in the healthcare community.

Clearly leading the pack of HMOs in the Philippines, Philam Care continues with its quest to give excellent services to its clientele. Such was Philam Care's desire to give Filipinos an array of exceptional medical services at competitive rates that in late 1998, the Company forged an alliance with the leading healthcare company in the United States—UnitedHealthCare.

Voted by the prestigious ***Forbes Magazine*** as one of America's most admired healthcare companies for four straight years, UnitedHealthCare brings to this impressive partnership more than 25 years of acknowledged expertise and remarkable experience in managed care. Plus of course, its broad spectrum of resources and services designed to help people achieve improved health and well-being through all stages of life, and its core beliefs and values essential in its success in the United States.

The synergy of these two stellar companies affords only the best and the widest array of medical services in managed care for millions of Filipinos, near and far.

Philam Care has indeed gone a long way from its humble beginnings to become the industry leader and undisputed leading multi-service HMO. It has done so because deep within the heart of what Philam Care does is the Filipino and the desire to keep him at the peak of his health.

**The PhilamCare Mancom at the newly renovated PhilamCare Clinic on United Nations Avenue (from left to right): Maritess L. Nepomuceno, SVP for Operations; Dr. Erlinda L. Tiuseco, SVP for Medical Services; Rowena B. Cruz. EVP for Marketing and Sales; Verne D. Quiazon, President and CEO; Gilda N. Resurreccion, VP for Finance and Administration and Michael J. Francisco, AVP for Human Resources**

## Securing your life's work

PHILAMLIFE'S diversification began in 1950s when it went into non-life insurance by purchasing the Cardinal Insurance Company and renaming it to the Philippine American General Insurance Company Inc.

Growth came fast for the Company with premiums breaking the P1-million mark in 1952 after only two years of operation. It was also in 1952 when the company sold its first aviation policy to Gen. Hans Menzi to cover his Beechcraft Bonanza.

In 1960, Philamlife established the Philippine American Assurance Company Inc. This was followed in 1961 with the creation of the Philippine American Accident Insurance Company. These three companies became known as the PhilamGen group.

The next three decades saw the Company grow and expand to all facets of the Philippine economy—with business areas that include Accident and Health, Financial Lines/Casualty, Property/Energy, Marine and Personal Lines.

From its inception up to the early 1980s, the Company grew at a compounded rate of 48 percent. This stellar growth ensued in a consolidation that culminated in the creation of one direct operating company—Philam Insurance Company Inc.

Today, Philam Insurance Company Inc. has assets amounting to P10.7 billion, with premiums written in 2000 reaching P957 million. It envisions a future as the continued market leader and undisputed in terms of creativity, innovation, distribution and providing new products and services to Filipinos.

## Tuition Fee Payment or Wardrobe Upgrade?

LIFE'S essential or little indulgences? Need or want? With today's economic situation, we really have to think twice before letting go of our hard-earned money.

The good news is, with AIG Credit Cards, you need not knock your head off trying to decide the best way to spend your money. Because whatever your needs may be—low installment plans for school expenses to exclusive shopping discounts—AIG will cover it.

AIG Credit Cards recognizes that while you have to prioritize necessities in life, you also need to enjoy it. This is why AIG Credit Cards has designed special programs that take care of your essential spending while giving you extras that allow you to live life to its fullest. Just like the Flexi-School Installment that lets you charge tuition fee, school uniform, school supplies, books and other school-related expenses to your AIG Credit Card. Choose from the convenient installment terms of 3, 6, 12 or 24 months and fixed interest rates of as low as 1.6 percent per month. There's also the Members-Only Sale which offers exclusive savings of up to 80 percent off on apparel, books, personal accessories, shoes, toys, appliances, computers, home décor and more.

That's not all. Here are some of the other programs in store this season that give you the best of both worlds:

**Value Grocer.** Enjoy a Free Half Gallon Nestle Classic Ice Cream for a minimum of P5,000 single or accumulated purchases using your AIG Credit Card. Incentive can be redeemed at any Rustan Supermarket or Express Lane outlets.

**Quick Bills.** Paying your utility bills has never been easier. With the Quick Bills facility, you can automatically charge your Globe, Smart/Piltel, Sky Cable, Meralco and PLDT bills.

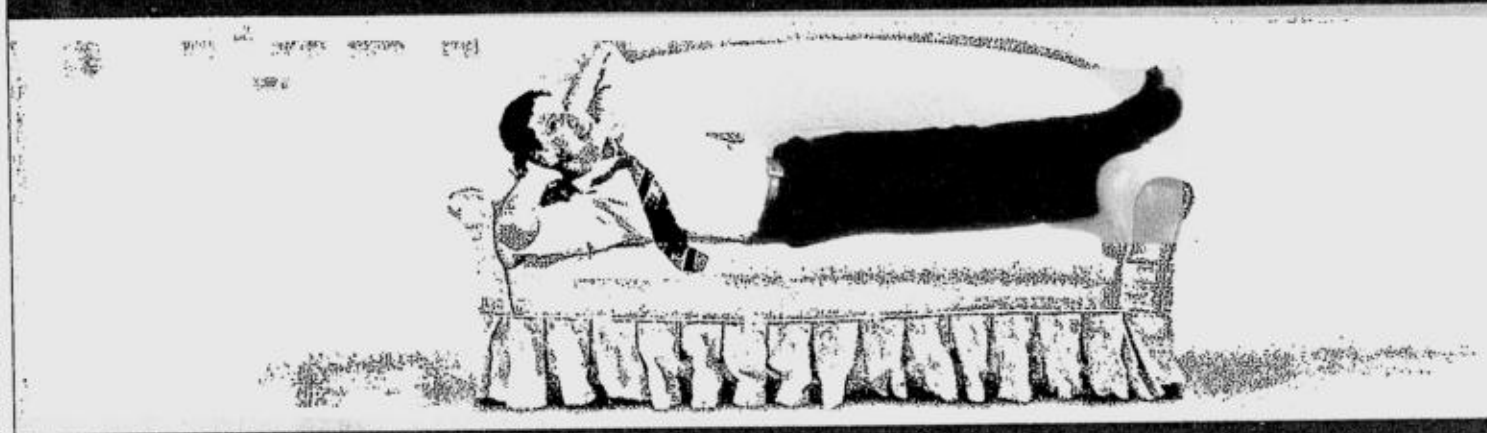
**Balance Transfer.** Take advantage of interest rates as low as 1.6 percent per month when you transfer your other credit card balances to your AIG Credit Card. Be on your way to achieving financial relief.

**Enchanted Kingdom.** Treat your kids to a fun-filled experience by availing of a 30-percent discount on Enchanted Kingdom tickets.

Apply now and experience what we mean by "We've got your family covered!" To top it all off, you'll get a free Executive Travel Bag application upon approval.

Call 636-8700 for your Free AIG Credit Card now!

An Education Plan for



Singles,

Doubles,

and even Triples.

PHILAM PLANS GOLD EDUCATION PLAN

You don't need to have children to purchase an educational plan. No matter what age you are in right now, Philam Plans' Gold Education Plan is sure to fit your needs. If you're single or newly married, secure your future child's education early. If you're an uncle or an aunt, assign the plan to a favorite niece or nephew. And if you're a grandparent, give the plan as a gift to your grandchild.

**Call 528-5200** and get a Philam Plans' Gold Education Plan NOW!

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one with the filipino family

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PHILAM PLANS

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Ask about Philam Plans Gold Education Plan.
☐ Tell me more about Philam Plans Gold Education Plan.
☐ Tell me about other Philam Plans Products.
Fill out this coupon and send to Product Marketing Department, Philam Plans, Inc. 4/F Times Plaza Bldg., Taft Ave. cor. UN Ave., Ermita, Manila or fax to 400-4171.
Call us now at 528-5200 or logon to www.philamplans.com.ph

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Age: _____ Address: _____
_____
Tel. Nos: _____

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# PhilamCare

## the first HMO in the country to reach P1Billion in Revenues and 600,000 in membership celebrates 2 decades of caring service to the Filipino people, on its 10th Annual Awards Night

*PhilamCare proudly celebrated the momentous occasion with an evening of reminiscences as the company looked back to 20 years of meaningful service in the healthcare industry, highlighted by a festival of Philippine and Asian dances in keeping with the theme of its sales rewards program.*

*Jesus D. Quiazon*
*President & CEO*
*PhilamCare Health Systems, Inc.*

*Rowena Bueno-Cruz*
*Executive Vice President*
*Marketing & Sales*
*PhilamCare Health Systems, Inc.*

*"We certainly have come a long way. The economic challenges notwithstanding, I believe that the future holds even more exciting opportunities for a market leader like us. Leadership bestows on us a responsibility and I can assure you that we shall be equal to it. We shall blaze a trail and set the standards by which others in this industry shall be judged. I believe that by excelling in the tasks we are called upon to perform, we are already contributing to leading our country to the respectability it deserves."*

*Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.*
*Chairman of the Board*
*PhilamCare Health Systems, Inc.*

## The PHILAMCARE 2001 ACHIEVERS

### *Individual Accounts Category*

#### *Agencies*

***Top***
*Philamlife*
*Antonio & Associates*

***Top Agency with the Most Number of Group Accounts Closed***
*Philamlife*
*Antonio & Associates*

***United Healthcare Merit Award***
*Philamlife*
*Antonio &Associates*

***2nd***
*Philamlife*
*Del Mundo & Associates*

***3rd***
*Philamlife*
*Capule & Associates*

#### *Unit Managers*

***Top***
*Ma. Zenaida Antonio*

***2nd***
*Basilisa Montoya*

***3rd***
*Eduarda Orogo*

#### *Agents*

***Top***
*Mona Lisa Rieta*

***2nd***
*Roberto Cortes*

***3rd***
*Ma. Zenith Viceral*

***Rookie of the Year***
*Noemi Poblador*
*Philamlife*
*Antonio & Associates*

***Baby Group Specialist of the Year***
*Estela Tan*
*Philamlife*
*Del Mundo & Associates*

***Broker of the Year***
*Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance Brokers,Inc.*
*represented by Meanne Mendoza-Villanueva*

### *Group Accounts Category*

#### *Agencies*

***Top***
*PhilamCare*
*Geronimo Agency*

***2nd***
*PhilamCare*
*Paragas Agency*

***3rd***
*Philamlife*
*Hembrador & Associates*

#### *Unit Managers*

***Top***
*Lydia Miranda*

***2nd***
*Bernard Go*

***3rd***
*David Bongala*

#### *Agents*

***Top***
*Jun Mariano Geronimo*

***2nd***
*Danilo Paragas*

***3rd***
*Gerry Franco*

***Rewards & Relaxation Winners:*** *(from left to right)*
*Japan trip winner- Jun Mariano Geronimo*
*Hongkong / Bangkok trip winners- Danilo Paragas, Meanne Mendoza-Villanueva, Gerry Franco, Lydia Miranda, Bernard Go, Edgar Aringay, David Bongala and Cleopatra Sablon joined by Mr. Jesus Quiazon-President & CEO of PhilamCare (extreme left) and Ms. Rowena Bueno-Cruz-EVP Marketing & Sales of PhilamCare (extreme right).*

***PhilamCare Officers, Partners and Guests***
*(from left to right)Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. (Chairman of the Board- PhilamCare), Lynne Montague (VP for Field Operations- United HealthCare International), Rowena Bueno-Cruz (EVP-Marketing & Sales), John Fenlason (GMD Global Deputy Director- AIG), and Jesus Quiazon (President & CEO- PhilamCare)*

***MANCOM:*** *(from left to right) Maritess Nepomuceno (SVP-Operations), Jesus Verne Quiazon (President & CEO), Rowena Bueno-Cruz (EVP- Marketing & Sales), Michael Fransisco (AVP- Human Relations) and Erlinda Tiuseco, M.D. (SVP-Medical Services).*

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BECAUSE YOU DESERVE EXCELLENT HEALTH CARE

*The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of Financial Services: Life and General Insurance* Property and Casualty Insurance* Health Care Management* Pre Need Plans* Savings and Mortgage* Mutual Fund Investment* Property Development* Credit Cards*

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Junior INQUIRER

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Poetry: So What If I'm Me? Page 8
Ruth Rocks! Page 10

# Homegrown science heroes

by Eline Santos

FIVE Filipinos bagged top prizes at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest pre-college science annual competition with 47 countries participating. Josette Biyo, a teacher of Science Research at the Philippine Science High School Western Visayas in Iloilo, won the Intel Excellence in Teaching Award. Her prize included a $20,000 teaching grant, $5,000 in cash and a high-performance computer.

Four students added to the victory by bringing home their own awards from Intel ISEF. Simply being a finalist means being chosen from over 500 Intel-ISEF affiliated fairs held worldwide, so it's really something to be proud of.

**Brainy Threesome**

They're young, they've got high IQs and they won $3000 for their science investigatory project. Richard Manapat, Jeric Macalintal and Allan Estrella were students of the Manila Science High School when they won the grand prize in the physics category for their work with liquid crystals.

"I am happy we won," said Richard. "Masaya rin po," Allan agreed while Jeric added that he was thankful that their efforts paid off.

Liquid crystals are found in mood rings, color thermometers and toys that change color when heated or cooled. They are also found in cell phones, calculators and anything with an LCD or liquid crystal display. While it is known that liquid crystals respond to electromagnetic waves and electric current, it was these young scientists who discovered that liquid crystals reacted to gamma radiation. "It's a real breakthrough, a major discovery," the trio said. This property of liquid crystals was not known before.

With the guidance of their adviser Dr. Leonorina Cada, the group decided to use liquid crystals in dosimeters. A dosimeter measures the level of radiation emitted by an object. Jeric said that normally, dosimeters take two months before the results come out. But with their liquid crystals, the results were immediate.

They used three kinds of liquid crystal mixtures colored violet, blue and cream. "There is a color pattern that tells you the level of radiation," Richard explained. Each mixture reacts differently to a certain dosage; together they form a distinct pattern that shows how much radiation is around.

"Ours is much cheaper," Jeric said, giving another advantage of their project. Imported dosimeters are expensive, he explains.

Their project began with a "literature search." From their readings, the group got ideas for feasible projects. "We kept it simple," said Jeric. He explained that although their project was not as complicated as a portable nuclear reactor, it had its practical applications.

All three acknowledged the role of their adviser in their success. "She was our main consultant. She gave part of the idea. She introduced us to institutions like the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, the Liquid Crystals Laboratory and the National Institute of Physics in UP Diliman," Richard related. "Be grateful to your teachers. Listen to them, [their advice] can really take you places," he advised.

Richard is a Business Ad-

**Homegrown/** p. 3

**RICHARD (left) and Allan look confident as they spent their first week as college freshmen at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.**

JOHNNY VILLENA

# World Scope

## Power Up

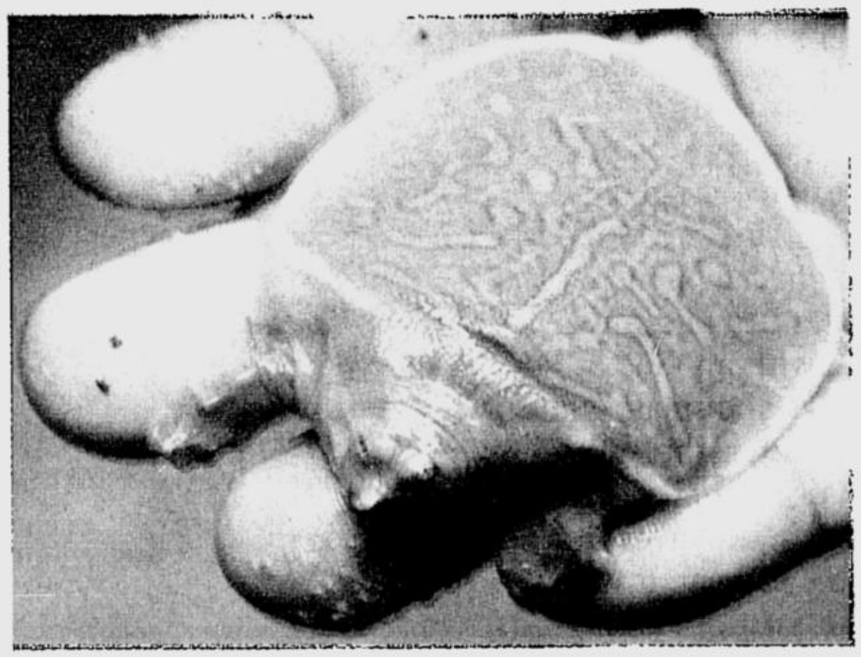
Energy scientist Ian Baring-Gold is shown with a portable generator that makes use of solar, wind, battery and diesel power to make electricity. It can bring power to disaster sites and will be used in refugee camps in Afghanistan. *AP*

## Jurassic Park Live!

Scientists plan to bring back the extinct Tasmanian tiger through cloning. Professor Mike Archer of the Australian Museum has led a team of scientists to replicate DNA from a 130-year-old Tasmanian tiger pup specimen. They hope to have a clone within ten years. Learn more about the project on Discovery Channel on July 7. *AFP*

## Chitra Chitra

The rare "Chitra Chitra" turtle was bred in captivity for the first time by the Thai Fishery Department. Hopefully, this two-week old baby will grow to its full-grown weight of 200 kilograms (440 pounds), and continue its claim to be the biggest soft-shelled turtle in the world. *AP*



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INQUIRER
SCHOOL CLUES
RAFFLE

Red, yellow and blue – colors made of wax.
I have the whole rainbow kept in a box.
What am I?

answer: _____

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## Homegrown... (from page 1)

ministration freshman at UP Diliman. "Just because you appreciate science doesn't mean it is the course you will take. I'm also inclined to the arts...theater, dancing... except singing."

Allan says one doesn't have to be a full-blown geek to win in science contests. "I'm not really a science geek. I play Counterstrike. I was even addicted...but not to the point that it would pull down my studies," he explained. Allan is also in UP, taking up Electronics and Communications Engineering. "You will not get anything from doing easy things," he said. "I want to take a program I'm not really good at. I want simplicity but I want things that require wits. If it's too easy, it will be mechanical. I won't learn." Jeric is now taking Physics with Computer Engineering at Ateneo de Manila. His advice to JI readers is, "Be inquisitive. Be curious about everything."

Allan also passed on his words of wisdom, "There will come a time when people will undermine you. The most important thing is to never quit. Go on with it.

Always follow what your heart tells you to do." Richard added, "When you want to do something, give it your all. But remember to find time for everything. Believe in God."

### Toad Cure

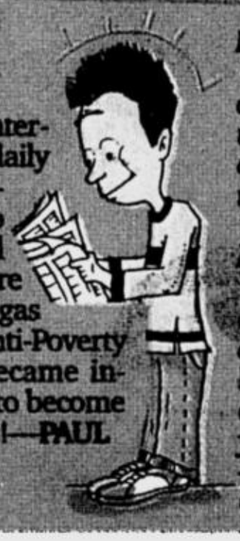
Another Filipino who did us proud was Prem Villas Fortran Rara. As a student of the Integrated Development School—Mindanao State University—ITT, Prem won second place in microbiology for his work on toad antiobiotics. He also won $1500 as part of his prize.

"I worked on it for two years," Prem said. He obtained an antibiotic substance from the "parotid gland secretions of the toad (Bufo Marinus)." Apparently, wizards and witches are not the only ones who need toads for their magic potions. "Antibiotics can be used against bacteria, fungi, microorgansims," Prem explained.

This young scientist comes from a family of scientists. "Mother has a Ph.D. in math. Dad has a masters degree in electrical engineering," he said. Seeing his parents working in a laboratory gave him the necessary push. "I was encouraged to do the same thing," Prem said. "Overnights at the lab, petri dishes, test tubes... I wanted to work with these people," he recalled. Pursuing his path, Prem is now a freshman Biology student at UP Diliman.

**Jeric at the US Intel science fair**

## I Want to Help



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*You don't need to be a council member of NAPC to make a difference for children. You can do something in your own community and school to ensure that your fellow children know their rights and demand for them, especially in behalf of children who are less fortunate than you. Thank you for your interest, and keep us posted on your activities.*

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## My Dog Tami

**By Janina Refran**
**St. Mary's College, Quezon City**

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Unfortunately, Taz died months later. We learned that Taz had a virus. Tami became sick a few days later. We took special care of Tami as we would a sick member of the family.

Luckily, Tami survived. Other dogs came after her and had the same virus. Tami took care of them, too. But due to bad luck they died. Even if they died soon, I'm sure that they all felt loved not only by us but by Tami as well.

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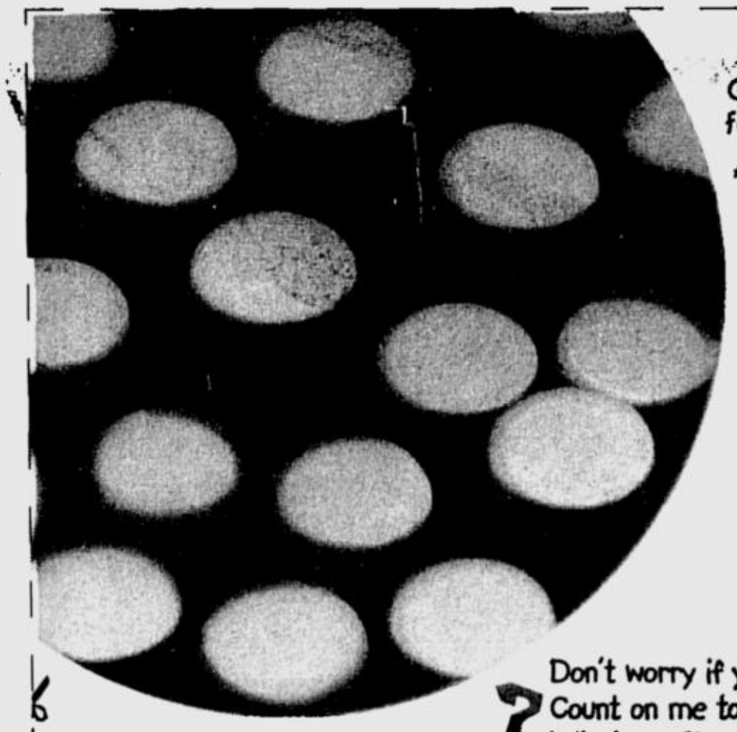

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RAFFLE

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Count on me to remove it right away.
What am I?

answer: _____

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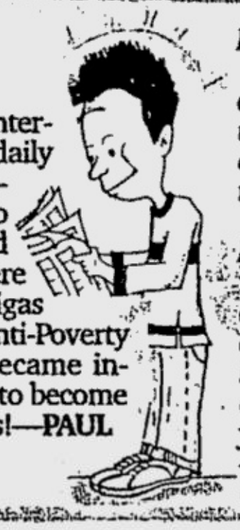
# Straight From JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

## I Want to Help



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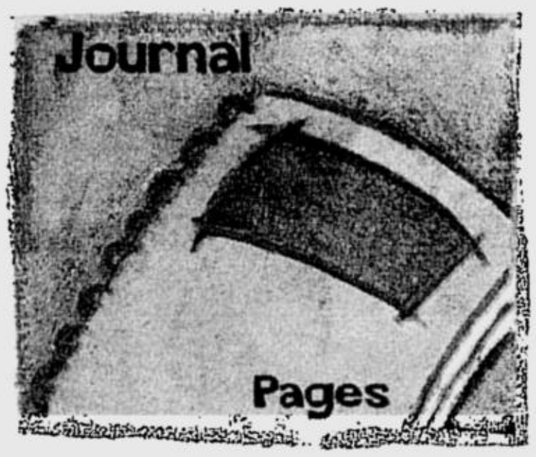


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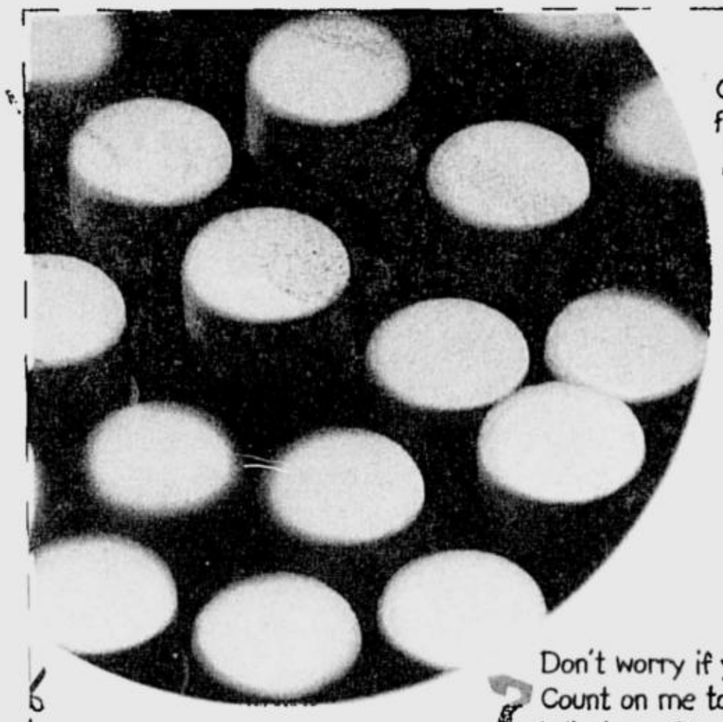

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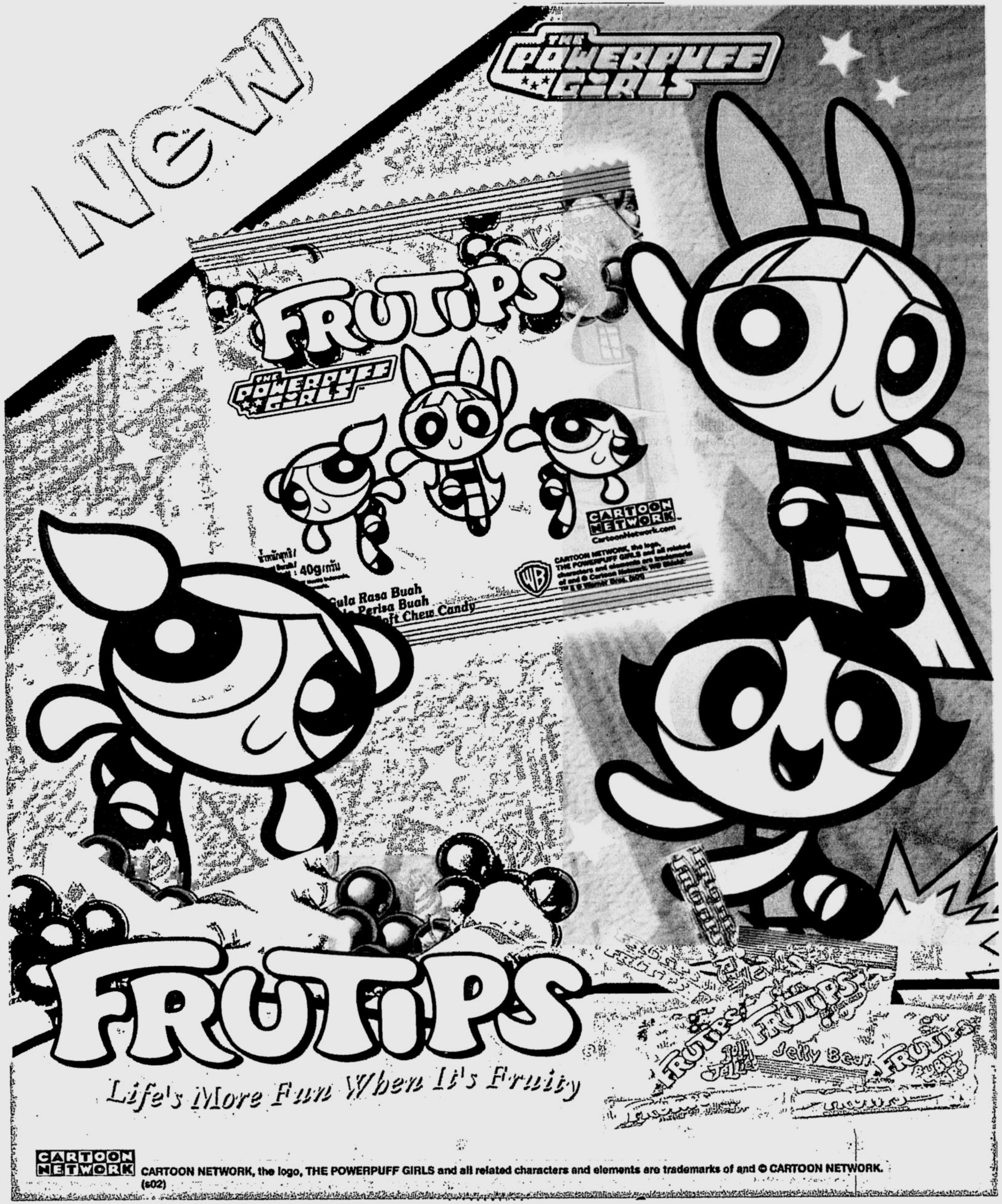


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(s02)

# Activities Galore!

By Margaux Ortiz

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

FUN, fun and more fun! This would barely describe the time I had with Adarna House's new activity books. The Sanayang Adarna series really kept me busy, making me forget how much I miss summer. Even though the rainy days are here again, I will surely enjoy staying inside the house with these fun books to keep me company.

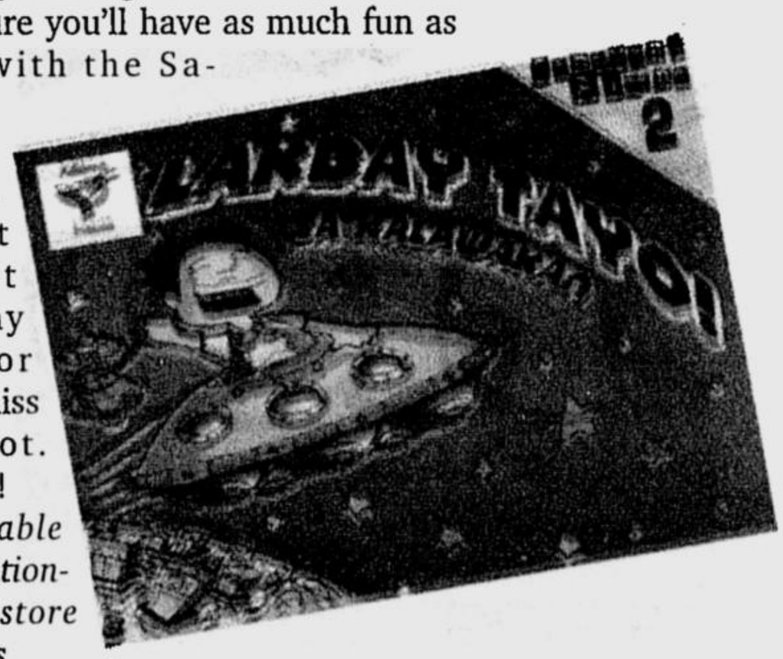
I enjoyed the activities in "Laro Tayo!" which featured some of the popular characters from Philippine folk stories and fables. Langgam, Tipaklong, Matsing, Pagong, Emang Engkantada and even Ibong Adarna were there with me while I tried to figure out word puzzles, find my way through mazes and connect dots to reveal secret characters. I also had a blast looking for Pagong's lost bananas that the mischievous Matsing hid and had an even greater time whipping out my crayons to make Ibong Adarna and Emang Engkantada more beautiful and colorful.

"Lakbay Tayo! Sa Kalawakan" was like the first activity book, except that I got to do space travelling through the eyes of an eager little boy. I met aliens and weird outer space animals on my journey. I was also made to take note and write the new things I saw and illustrate stuff I would like to bring home to my family when I get back to my planet. That was one really cool trip, I tell you.

I did a lot of folding and cutting in the third activity book, "Gawa Tayo! Origami at Maskara." The first part focused on origami, or the art of Japanese paper folding. I enjoyed making Dragong Pula, Itim na Kuting and Pilandok. Now I have them to keep me company in my room, hee hee. The second part of the book taught me how to make masks. Now that I have colorful maskaras, I can parade around our house looking like Langgam, Tipaklong and even Matsing! Oh boy, I'm really looking forward to it.

I'm sure you'll have as much fun as I had with the Sanayang Adarna books. Just don't skip any pages or you'll miss out a lot. Bye-bye!

*Available in all National Bookstore branches*



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SCHOOL CLUES RAFFLE

Snip, snip, snip!
When it comes to cutting, I give you the edge.
What am I?

answer: _____

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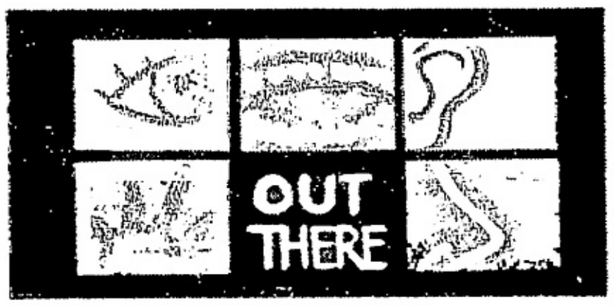


**Got something for Out There?**
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

### Contest

**INTEL CHALLENGE.** The Department of Science and Technology is inviting young science enthusiasts to join the 2002-2003 Intel Philippine Science Fair. High school students from public and private schools can get application forms at their school's Science Dept. or nearest DOST regional office. For more info pls. call 839-0083 and 837-1333 or visit www.sei.dost.gov.ph/intel-philsciencefair.

### Books

**HALF-PRICE SALE!** Adarna House is having its annual back-to-school sale for the whole month of June. Enjoy a 50% discount on children's books, gift items, and young adult novellas. Visit Adarna at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Bgy. Laging Handa, Q.C.

### Cable Picks

**GET SLIMED!** Watch who nabbed the coveted Blimp Awards in Nickelodeon's 15th Kids' Choice Awards. The star-studded event proved to be "Bigger! Louder! Messier!", with a cool opening act by Pink and other special appearances by Nick cartoon stars. Premieres today, June 22 at 5:30 p.m.

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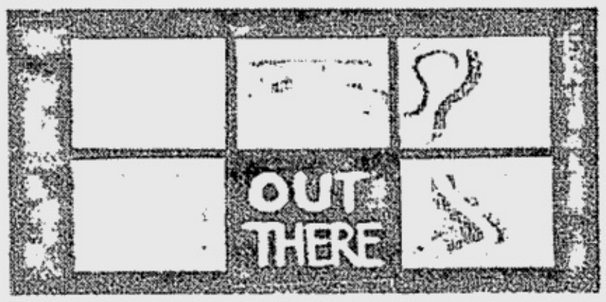


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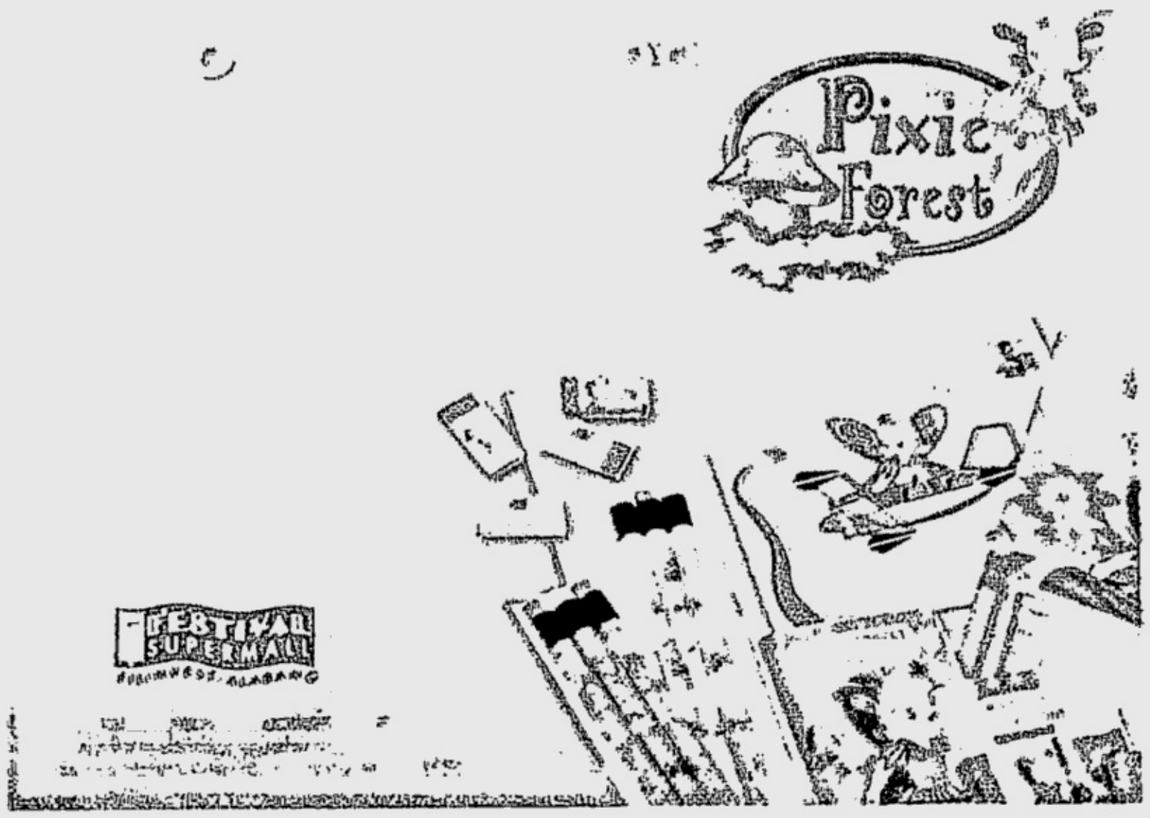

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# So what i

## (A Collection of Poe

Poetry by J. Ch
Art by Ja

### Ben

When I wake up in the morning
I play the flute.
Before I sleep I play the flute.
When my teacher is boring
I play the flute
When my heart is aching
I play the flute
I have no excuse
No excuse whatsoever.
I just play the flute,
over and over.

### Hiroshi

I love raw fish
All kinds, even blowfish!
I eat it for lunch,
I have it for dinner
I even order it at the local diner.
Some think it's cute
Some pretend it's cool
No matter how they act
I love sushi and that's a fact.

### Mei Lee

They call me yellow
They call me chink
Sometimes I smile
Sometimes I shrink.

### Alf

I study becau
I study beca
I study becau
I'll study t
I study fo
I study f
I study a
I even study
They cal
They call m
They make
I think th

*__Christine__ studies at the University of the Philippines in Q*
*__Jason__ is a freelance artist and a member of Ang Ilustrador ng*

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# I'm me?

## ns for Young Adults)

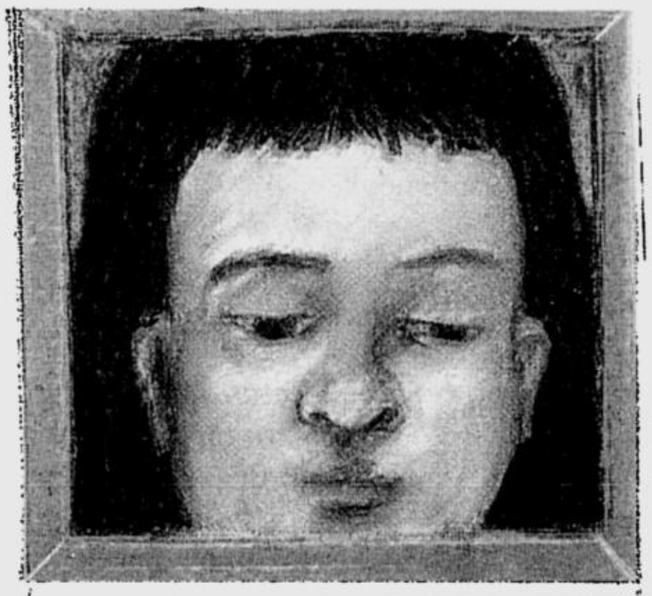
ristine C. Meñez
son Moss

## red

se it's Monday
use I'm cold
se it's Tuesday
ill I'm old.
r pleasure
or leisure
s a hobby
in the potty.
me nerd
e the brain,
me laugh. . .
y're draft.

## Dianne

I'm sick of being called stupid,
I'm sick of being teased,
I'm sick of being laughed at
I hate being last.
I wish I were different,
I wish I were different,
I wish I wasn't me,
I wish I were someone,
Who could win a spelling bee.



## Bea

I stutter when I speak,
My walk is a shuffle,
My knees are weak.
I cry at night,
I pity my plight,
I have to find my own delight.
It's a long painful journey,
Coping with palsy
I won't complain, to me it's a game.
All I want, all I ask
Show respect, please, no masks
Just accept, you really must.

## Jaay

Growing up different
Can be a blessing,
can be a chore.
It's up to you,
get less or have more.
Face life smiling
Face life crying
It's up to you,
live sad or live laughing.

*uezon City. She loves reading and writing stories for kids.*
*Kabataan. You may write to him at jasonmoss@hotmail.com.*

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**RHYTHM BYTES. Not just a good drummer but a computer whiz with her own website.** ROGER CARPIO

# Ruth Rocks!

**by Eline Santos**

*Say Nuñez backwards and you'll get an all-female, sister-cousin band ready to party---on non-school nights*

Ten-year-old Ruth Nuñez sure knows how to rock! She's the wee drummer of their all-girl band, Zeñun.

"The audience can't see me," Ruth shares the challenge of being a young drummer. Her mother quips people might think the drums are on autopilot as Ruth is dwarfed by her drum set. "But she gets the attention. *Sikat siya*," says her older sister Anne, who is also Zeñun's bassist/vocalist. "*Natutuwa po 'yung mga tao sa kanya*."

With eldest sister Fe, 19, on the lead guitar and cousin Abigail, 20, on the keyboard, Zeñun is out to give The Corrs a run for its money. "Kinapa namin 'yung 'So Young', mag-isa lang kami," says the incoming Grade 5 Stella Maris student.

Aside from a good number of The Corrs hits,

**Ruth/** p. 13

## 'KU'RRIFIC

**'Rrific kids are smart**
**'Rrific kids are fun**
**Some aren't in the honors list**
**But get their homework done**

**Somehow the world's**
**a better place**
**I know this much is true**
**Hey 'Rrific kid!**
**We know you're there**
**We love you 'cause you're you!**

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

**Junior Inquirer**
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

**FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!**

**Kids 'r' rrific**
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at _____

and studies at _____

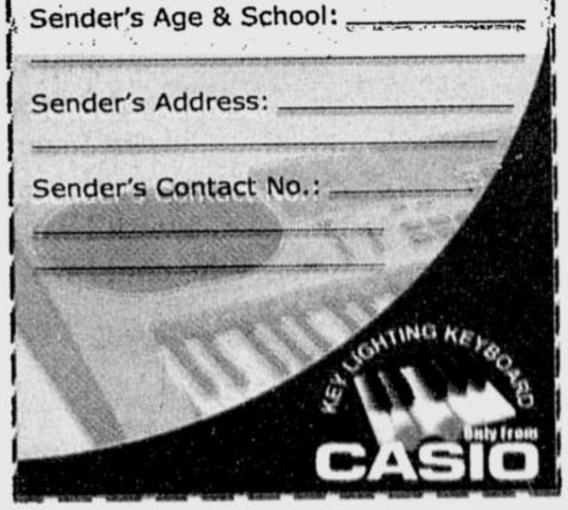
Her/his contact number is: _____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No.: _____



NEW! Season 3

# DIGIMON Digital Monsters®

DIGIMONTAMERS

DIGIMON

# D-POWER Digivice™ Challenge

Competition Mechanics:

1. All aspiring D-Power players may join the DIGIVICE D-POWER CHALLENGE at Toy Kingdom, Megamall on Sunday, June 30, 2002 at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Pre Registration will be available starting June 10 - 22, 2002 at the customer service of Toy Kingdom, SM Megamall.

2. Only Season 3 D - Power Digivice will be allowed in the competition. Thus, participants have to bring their own D - Power Digivice unit.

3. All registered participants will be paired randomly according to their assigned number .

4. Participants will battle with other D - Power Digivice's by connecting their Digivice and battle with D-Power Digimon characters, whoever wins the match, will get the points for that round.

5. There will be three rounds for this challenges namely Qualifying, Final and a special "clincher round"

   a. Qualifying Round
   During this round, contestants will be playing "best of three" matches among other contestants, players who have won 2 out of 3 games during this level will automaticall enter the Semi-final Round.

   b. Semi-Final Round
   In this level contestants will be playing a "round robin" battle wherein they will challenge each qualifier, only once. At the end of this round, the top 3 players with the most number of wins will battle for first, second and third place. In case of a tie, players will be playing another round.

   c. "Clincher" Round

   Regardless of their standing during previous battles, they will be playing new games in a "round robin- best of three" format. Judges will draw the names of first pair who will play for the first match and whoever wins during this round will be playing with the remaining players will continue after they have played with all the participants. The player with the most number of wins will be declared the Champion, next highest pointer will be the 1st Runner Up and last hightest pointer will be the 2nd Runner Up.

6. The first place winner will be the official Philippine representative to the DIGIMON ASIA CUP in Hong Kong Convention Center, Hong Kong China on July 27 -28, 2002.

7. Should the winner opt not to participate in the DIGIMON ASIA CUP he/she will receive P 10,000.0 cash instead of the Hong Kong trip. The second place winner has the option to vie for the said competition but will only be entitled to the P7,000.00 worth of Digimon product showcase in case he/she decided not to participate on the DIGIMON ASIA CUP.

8. Ban Kee Trading Inc. shall shoulder Airfare and Hotel accomodation for 3days and 2 nights of the winner plus one companion. All Tax and other expenses related to the Hong Kong trip will be to the winners account.

9. Winners Tax of 20% for prizes exceeding P 10,000.00 will be shouldered by Ban Kee Trading Inc.

10. Employees of Ban Kee Trading Inc. and SM Toy Kingdom and their relatives up to the second degree of consaguinity or affinity are disqualified to join the said competition.

11. Judge(s) decision is final and irrevocable.

PRIZES:

Champion:
P9,000.00 worth of Digimon product showcase
Trip for Two (2) Hong Kong for 3 days and 2 nights
Inclusive of Hotel Accomodation to be the official representative to the DIGIMON ASIA CUP on July 27-28, 2002 or P 10,000.00 CASH

2nd Runner Up
P 7,000.00 worth of Digimon product showcase.

3rd Runner Up
P 5,000.00 worth of Digimon product showcase.

INQUIRER

BAN DAI

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Licensed by Toei A

SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP For Kids

## Look Out Kid!

***You could be missing on a chance to win a* Canon *BF 800 Camera***

We are accepting entries coming from the young and the young-at-heart. Just send in your entries directly to Ms. Masoy of the Marketing Department (Philippine Daily Inquirer).

# A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

What happens when a newspaper giant Philippine Daily Inquirer and industry leader Canon Camera join forces?

"We all had a great time" says Dean Guerrero, one of the participants in the Summer Photography Workshop for Kids.

"We were taught how to use a camera, how to take care of it and more importantly, we were given the chance to shoot pictures" adds Mica.

Parents said it's worth the time and the effort bringing their kids to the workshop -- the photo exhibit proves that.

Best of all, everything's free! Courtesy of partner sponsors Super East Asia, Junior Inquirer, Kids@Work, Henlin, Kameraworld, Lactum and Nestle Chocolate.

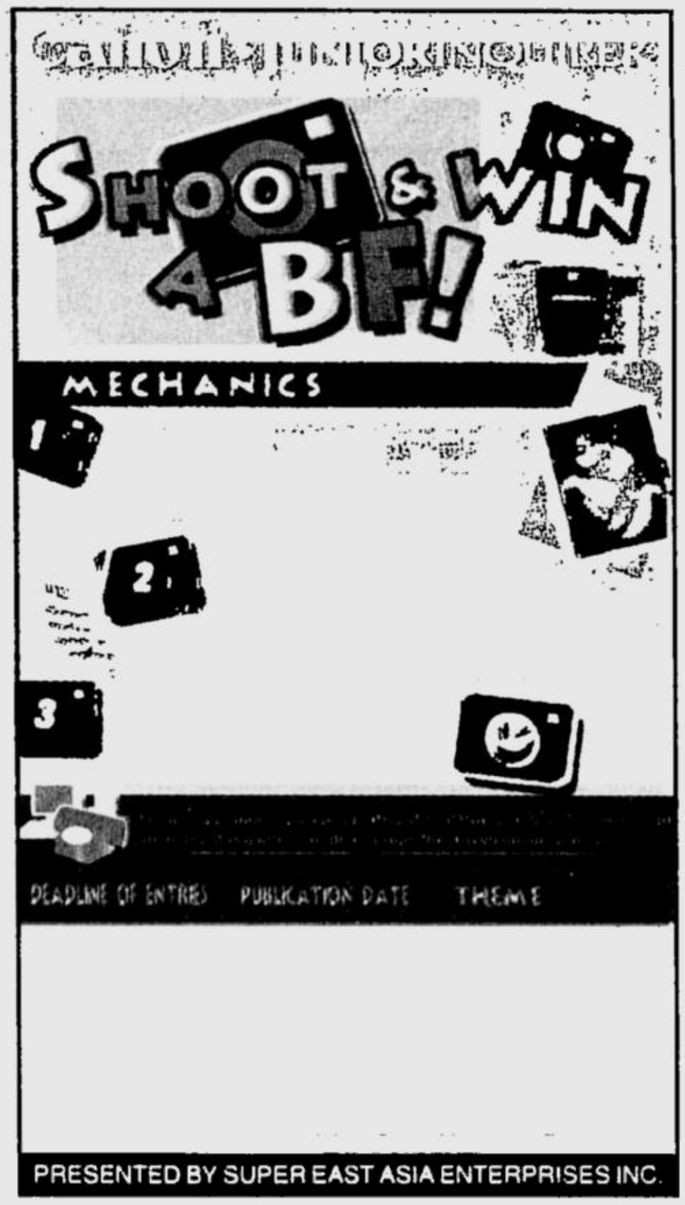


*Painted Pictures*

*Ice-breaker...*

*Super East SVP, Ms.Conchita Sy (L) awards the Certificate of Completion to workshop participants who were able to complete the 3-day workshop session.*

*Canon - Super East Asia's President William Sia (R) hands over the Plaque of Appreciation to Junior Inquirer's Marketing Director Donald Lim (L) for its generous support to the activity.*




During the culminating activity held last June 1, three outstanding entries were chosen each winning a Canon Prima BF 800 as prize:

*BEST TECHNIQUE*
***Kyla Nicole Fabian***

*BEST SHOOTING*
***Ynna Benipayo***

*BEST PAINTED PICTURE*
***Nikki Gallardo***

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

**ZEÑUN RULES. To keep the peace with the neighbors, no practice is allowed between 12nn and 3 pm. "Siesta time," the girls say.** ROGER CARPIO

## Ruth Rocks!

(from page 10)

Zeñun's repertoire includes songs by Natalie Imbruglia and Sixpence None the Richer. The band also has original compositions such as "Like a Moon" written by 16-year-old Anne.

The band has performed at family gatherings, weddings, and special occasions at their parents' offices.

"We should be called wedding singers," shares Ruth. But their public performances have also included three songs at the Fort's Caramba, a bandfest for the environment at the Ultra and a Corrs medley at the Hard Rock Cafe. Not bad for a four-year-old band that owes much to their father's enthusiasm for music.

"One day, Papa just came home with a drum set. *'Di namin alam,*" says Anne.

"We thought he was joking," Fe recalled.

That marked the birth of Zeñun... and Ruth's love affair with rhythm.

It's not always smooth playing. "We point out each other's mistakes," says Ruth. They also sometimes disagree over what kind of music to play (Papa wants Shanaia Twain but the girls don't). And there was a time when the drummer lost her drumsticks.

"*Tumalsik 'yung drumstick,*" Ruth smiles sheepishly at the memory. "*Buti na lang marunong siyang mag-drum ng isang kamay lang,*" Anne says. So while continuing the beat with one hand, Ruth retrieved the stick with the other.

Which just goes to show it's not always a bad thing to be blocked by a set of drums. "*Hindi naman ako nahalata. Hindi po ako makita.*"

Obi-wan's wise words notwithstanding, the threat of death brings out Padme's confession of her true feelings for Anakin. REUTERS

MOVIE REVIEW:

# "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones"

By Stephanie C. Ferrer, 13
St. Joseph's College

I AM one big "Star Wars" fan and I had been waiting for this movie for three years (since I got hooked on "The Phantom Menace"). Theaters opened around the world when the clock struck 12:01 a.m. I even wanted to watch it during that time but I knew my parents wouldn't allow me. And when I did watch this movie last April 17, I have to say that it was excellent, as good as my favorite Star Wars movies.

**Trouble Brewing**

The movie starts ten years after the events of the Phantom Menace. Things have become definitely worse in the galaxy.

After years of decay and corruption, the Galactic Republic is beginning to fragment as displeased constituents flock to a growing Separatist movement led by the mysterious Count Dooku.

Anakin Skywalker has grown into a reckless and rebellious Jedi Apprentice of Jedi Obi-wan Kenobi. Anakin is assigned to protect the former Queen of Naboo, Senator Padmé Amidala, whose life is threatened by a faction of political separatists.

Because of this, Anakin is drawn into a forbidden romance with the lovely Senator. I'll have to stop here so you can watch it by yourself.

**'Wow' Scenes**

Many reviews by critics conclude that Attack of the Clones is indeed a worthy enough movie to be part of "Star Wars." This dark film echoes "Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back", and is far more focused and richly dramatic.

It has better defined characters and an altogether smoother story. Shot digitally, "Clones" looks gorgeous, using CGI in George Lucas' imaginative galaxies and alien life forms, including, for the first time, a computer-generated Yoda.

The action never stops starting with a breathless night-time chase throughout Coruscant, lightsabre duels and an arena face-off between hundreds of Jedi (I personally loved this scene) and countless droids.

**The Action Yoda**

Yoda was incredible, from the old hermit we saw in the previous movies to the lightsaber-fighting Jedi Master (you should definitely see this one). Senator Amidala was exquisite and Anakin captures your heart.

The Clone Wars is nothing short of outstanding. The soundtrack, as always, makes you feel as if you really are from long ago in a galaxy far away. The whole movie is consistently thrilling and massively enjoyable.

To make it short, I absolutely loved it! The breathtaking movie enchanted and captured me and I know the same will happen to you. All I can say now is go watch it while it's still in the big screen and May the Force be with you!

# SPELL CHECK

**HERE'S another batch of commonly misspelled words for you to ponder. Can you pick out the right one in each set?**

1. • accumulate • accummulate • acumulate
2. • exagerate • exagerrate • exaggerate
3. • ocasionally • ocassionally • occasionally
4. • ridiculous • ridiculious • ridiculus
5. • psichology • psychology • psycology
6. • 'concience • conscience • consience
7. • judiciary • judisiary • judiciery
8. • vengence • vengance • vengeance
9. • deductible • deductable • deducteble
10. • referense • reference • refference
11. • insidentally • incidentaly • incidentally
12. • benefitted • benefited • bennefitted

**Answers :**

1. accumulate
2. exaggerate
3. occasionally
4. ridiculous
5. psychology
6. conscience
7. judiciary
8. vengeance
9. deductible
10. reference
11. incidentally
12. benefitted

**Ratings:**

11-12

9-10

6-8

# THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

## A PESO FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

You probably know that our money is called the PESO. Want to know what it's called in other countries? Search for them here!

China - Yuan
France - Franc
Germany - Deutsche Mark
UK - Pound
Russia - Ruble
Saudi Arabia - Riyal
India - Rupee
Bhutan - Ngultrum
Japan - Yen
Philippines - Peso
Thailand - Baht

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | W | R | O | P | Y | R | O | U | K | L | K |
| O | J | A | T | L | E | F | R | A | N | C | S |
| U | N | Y | U | A | N | P | E | S | T | O | B |
| N | G | U | N | G | U | L | T | R | U | M | A |
| D | A | H | A | T | E | R | E | I | B | E | H |
| B | L | D | O | E | M | O | N | Y | P | I | A |
| P | T | E | P | J | A | X | B | A | H | T | M |
| E | N | U | C | I | F | R | A | L | Y | C | R |
| S | R | T | S | R | U | B | L | E | U | L | I |
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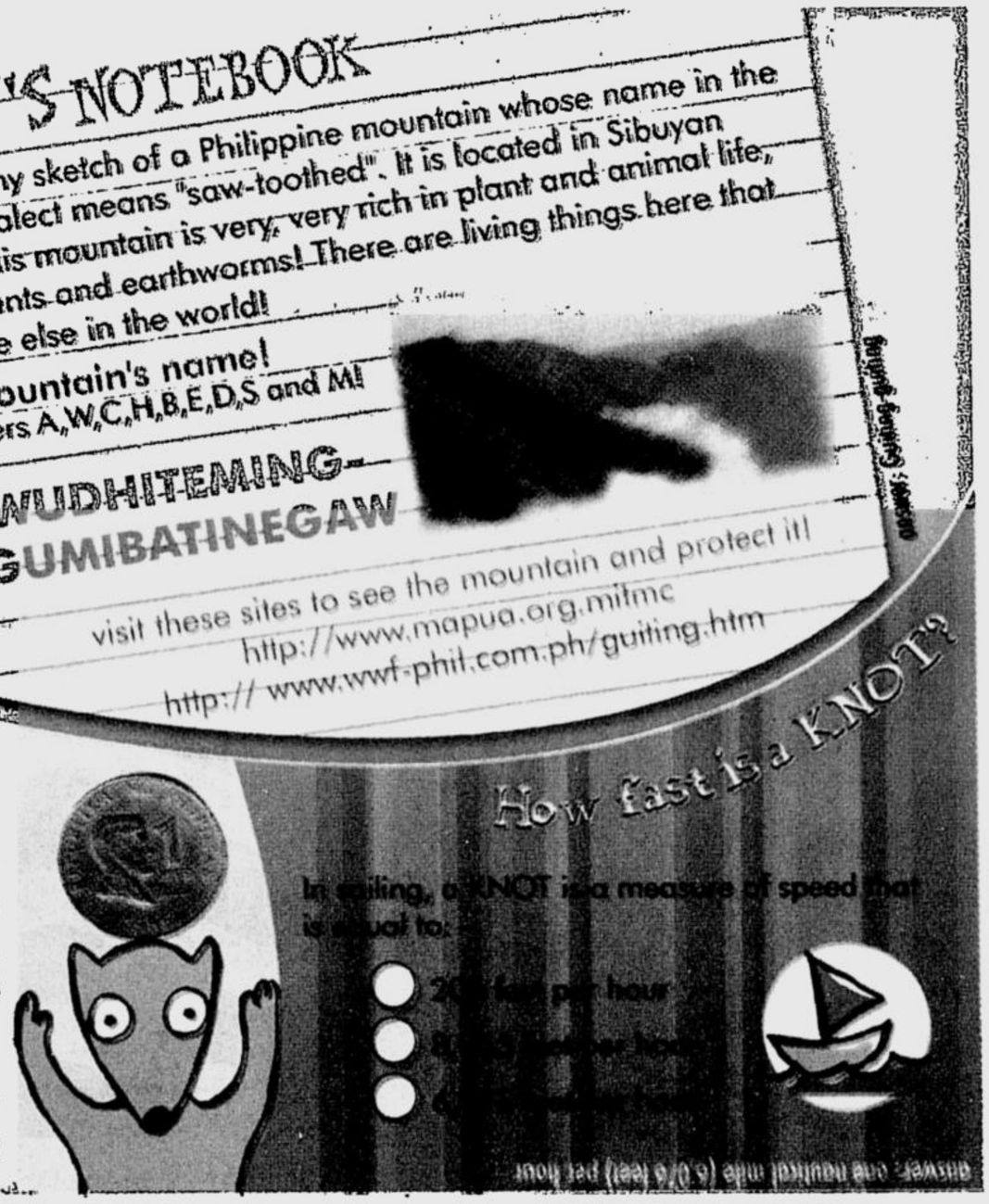



## BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT




BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

Here's my sketch of a Philippine mountain whose name in the local dialect means "saw-toothed". It is located in Sibuyan Island, Romblon. This mountain is very, very rich in plant and animal life, including metallic blue ants and earthworms! There are living things here that can't be found anywhere else in the world!

Find out this mountain's name!
Remove the letters A,W,C,H,B,E,D,S and M!

**AGECWUDHITEMING.**
**HEWAGUMIBATINEGAW**

http: www.wwf-phil.com ph/guiting.htm

answer: Guiting-guiting

You probably know that our money is called the PESO. Want to know what it's called in other countries? Search for them here!

China - Yuan
France - Franc
Germany - Deutsche Mark
UK - Pound
Russia - Ruble
Saudi Arabia - Riyal
India - Rupee
Bhutan - Ngultrum
Japan - Yen
Philippines - Peso
Thailand - Baht

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | W | R | O | P | Y | R | O | U | K | L | K |
| O | J | A | T | L | E | F | R | A | N | C | S |
| U | N | Y | U | A | N | P | E | S | T | O | B |
| N | G | U | N | G | U | L | T | R | U | M | A |
| D | A | H | A | T | E | R | E | I | B | E | H |
| B | L | D | O | E | M | O | N | Y | P | I | A |
| P | T | E | P | J | A | X | B | A | H | T | M |
| E | N | U | C | I | F | R | A | L | Y | C | R |
| S | R | T | S | R | U | B | L | E | U | L | I |
| O | E | W | D | Y | H | A | M | A | N | O | Y |
| D | E | U | T | S | C | H | E | M | A | R | K |

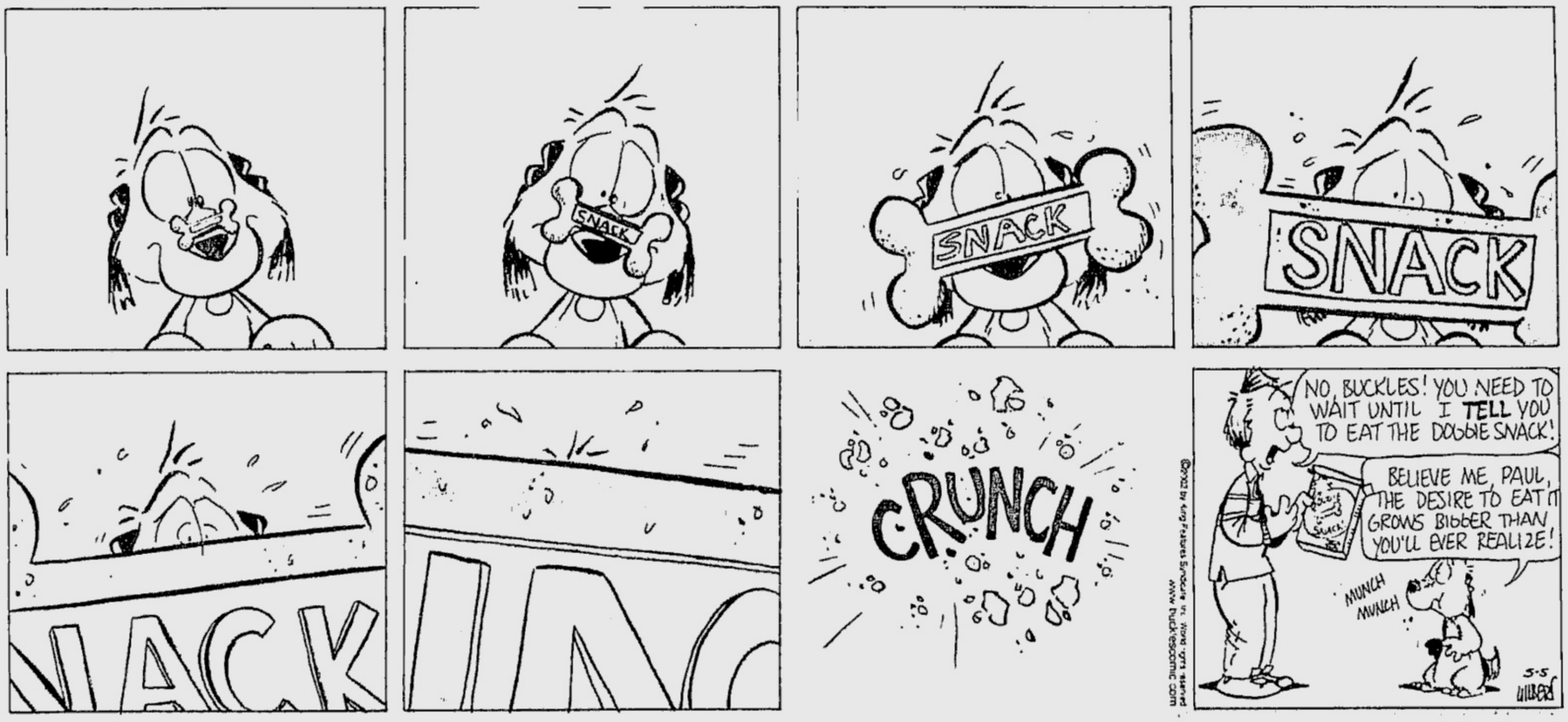
## How fast is a KNOT?

In sailing, a KNOT is a measure of speed that is equal to:

- 200 feet per hour
- 8,055 feet per hour
- 6,076 feet per hour

## BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

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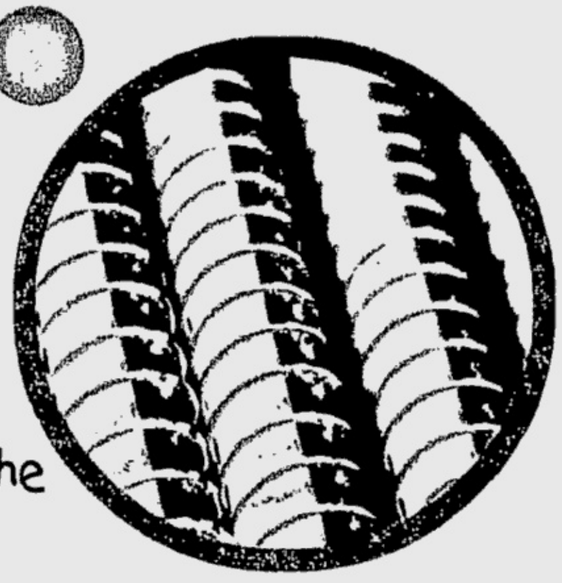
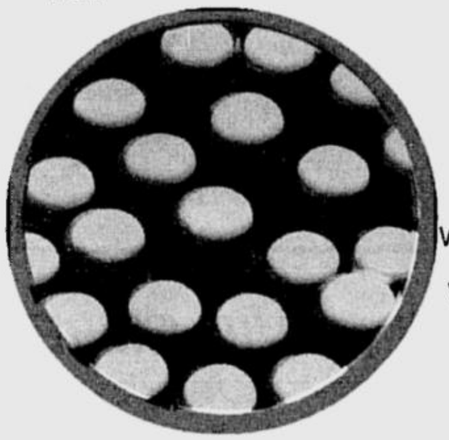
Get set for school and get a chance to win in the

Junior Inquirer



# SCHOOL CLUES

## RAFFLE



Attention students 5 to 12 years old! Want to win cool school stuff? Then here's your assignment: look for clues scattered in the pages of the Junior Inquirer issues on June 22, 29 and July 6 and guess the different school supplies described by the clues. Collect all 9 clues and send them to us in an envelope along with a piece of paper with your name, address, telephone number, birthday and signature for a chance to win neat prizes in our back-to-school raffle on July 15.

## PROMO MECHANICS:

1. The promotion is open to children 5 to 12 years old. For three (3) consecutive issues, starting June 22, 29 & July 6, 2002, three (3) School Clues will be hidden in the pages of the Junior Inquirer.

2. Look for the clues and answer each clue correctly.

3. Collect all nine (9) clues that will come out in the three (3) issues published within the promo duration (June 22, 29 & July 6) and on a piece of paper, write your name, address, tel no., affix your signature and date of birth and put inside a white legal size envelope and mail to School Clues c/o Junior Inquirer, Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.

4. This serves as a single official entry to the raffle draw during which the following prizes shall be given away: Ten (10) winners will each receive a School Gift Pack (notebooks, pencil case, crayola, ruler, eraser, sharpener). Only entries with correct answers for all nine (9) clues are considered valid.

5. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of July 12, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw.

6. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.

7. The raffle draw will be held on July 15, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office in the presence of an official DTI representative.

8. Raffle prizes are not convertible to cash.

9. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.

10. Winners can claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID (school ID or passport).

11. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Philippine Daily Inquirer with prior approval from DTI.

12. Employees and staff of Philippine Daily Inquirer, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

13. Promo is valid only in GMA.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2436 SERIES OF 2002

# Escaped kidnap leader sets surrender terms

STORY ON PAGE A2

**Not-so-smart traffic system**

By Armand N. Nocum

LAST January, the Department of Public Works and Highways put in place a P500-million state-of-the-art "smart" traffic system to improve traffic flow in Metro Manila.

NOT-SO-SMART/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
June 23, 2002 ★★ 72 pages / 6 sections vol.17 / no. 195 P15
website: www.inq7.net
e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

TODAY IN THE

- Vintage Eddie Garcia
- What they'd wear to Mikey's wedding

ABU SABAYA'S many sides:

FRONT VIEW

SEMI FRONT VIEW

SIDE VIEW

BACK VIEW

# Reward for Sabaya's body

## *Bounty to prove death of Abu leader*

By Julie S. Alipala
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*
Norman Bordadora
and Dona Pazzibugan, *in Manila*

**ISABELA CITY—Now they're offering money for Abu Sabaya's missing body.**

**National Security Adviser Roilo Golez has offered a P50,000 reward to whoever will find the body of the Abu Sayyaf leader, believed to have drowned in deep waters off Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte.**

"I will give P50,000 to the first person who will bring the body of Sabaya and this includes the military who are presently searching for Sabaya," Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina quoted Golez as saying.

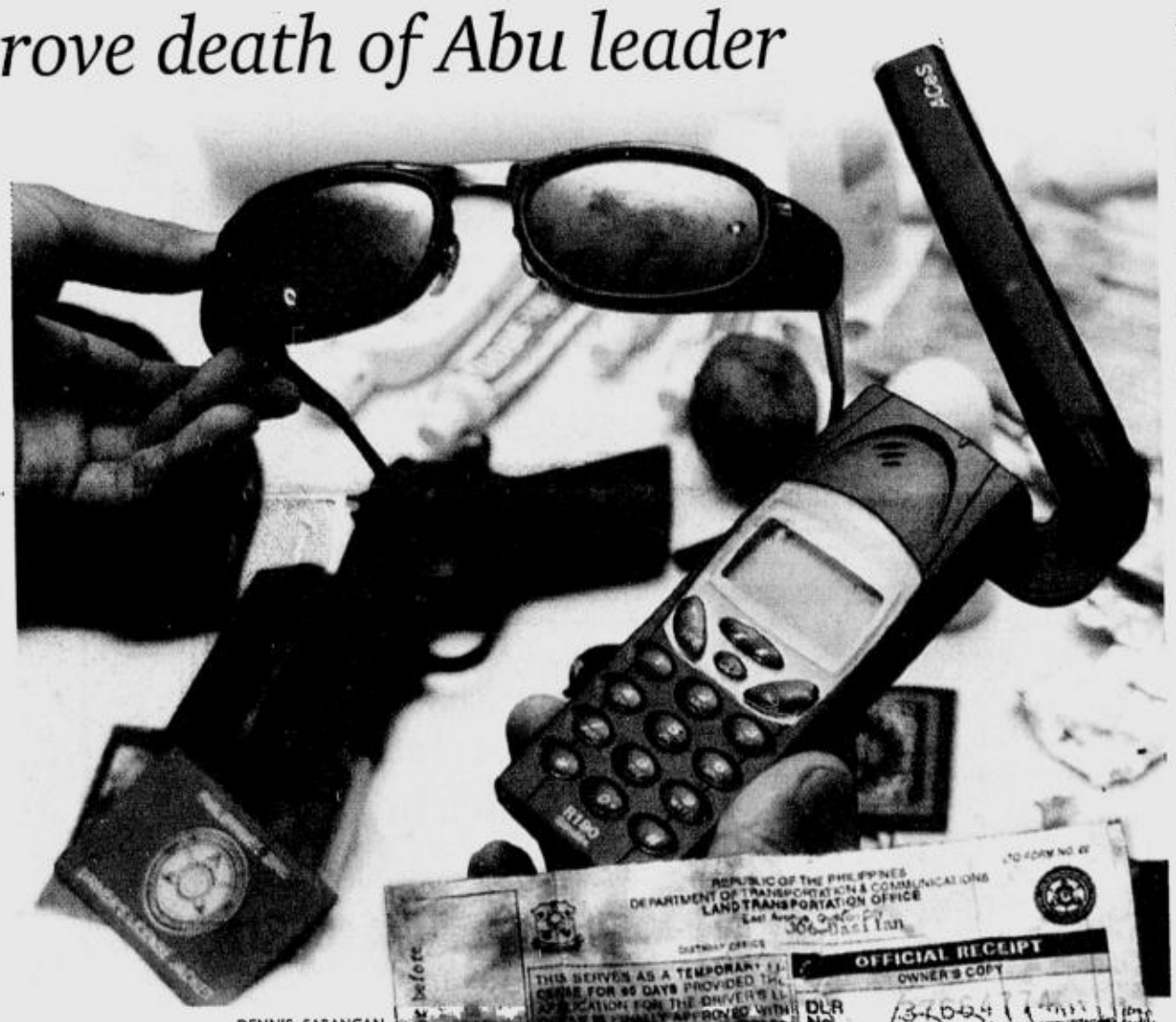
A day and a half after a wounded Sabaya was spotted falling into the water, his body remains missing.

In Malacañang, Golez said, "the body is the only thing missing," but expressed optimism that the military will eventually recover Sabaya's remains. "In my experience—and I've asked around—the search and rescue usually lasts three days," he said.

Carolina, the Southern Command chief, said the reward has caused excited residents of Sibuco to join the search for Sabaya's body.

Carolina said locating Sabaya's body and those of the two other slain

REWARD/A16



DENNIS SABANGAN

**PERSONAL belongings recovered from the scene of battle left no doubt in the military that Abu Sabaya is dead. They include his satellite phone, his trademark sunglasses, his .45-caliber pistol and his driver's license.**

# Gloria savors 'great day,' basks in Bush tribute

By Dona Pazzibugan

REJOICING over the reported death of Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya, a reinvigorated President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed to put an end to the "tyranny of lawlessness and terrorism."

"This is a great day for us to meet, the day after Abu Sabaya (was killed)," the President declared at the 2nd Mindanao Budget Summit in Mandaluyong City. "This is a great day. I think the Lord planned this day . . . because I think He wanted me to use this occasion to reaffirm today our determination to enforce law and order."

Ms Macapagal was basking in the praise of US President George W. Bush, who said in Orlando, Florida, that she had done "the world a great service."

"I want to congratulate the President of the Philippines. I appreciate her leadership and her strength. It goes to show that by assembling a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries, that

GLORIA/A16

# Eye doctors help blind Basilan folk see the light

By Edwin O. Fernandez
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

COTABATO CITY—Blind for nearly a decade, he was losing hope. With his advancing years and the high cost of treatment, he thought regaining his eyesight would be impossible.

But eight years after his eyes dimmed, Calindo Mustapha, 77, began to see the light again, thanks to a group of ophthalmologists and physicians in Mindanao who showed compassion for indigent patients on the troubled island of Basilan.

Mustapha, a Yakan native, was one of the patients under the "Eye Care, We Care," a program that gives free surgeries for cataract, glaucoma and pterygium to elderly indigents in Basilan.

The outreach program was launched in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao by a group of eye doctors in coordination with the Philippine Jaycees and the Kabacan Polymedic Cooperative Hospital (KPCH).

"Now everything seems new," the visibly excited Mustapha said.

"By far, this is the greatest gift I have received in my entire life. Thank you very much," he said in a letter to Dr. Kadil Sinolinding Jr., director of the KPCH, which is based in Kabacan, North Cotabato.

Sinolinding, the brains behind the eye care program, said it was difficult for him to describe the patients' reaction when told about the possibility of recovering their eyesight.

Sinolinding recently resigned as a public health officer to fulfill his mission. He said some patients would say thank you after the operation, while others would simply shed tears.

"The magnitude of blindness is a problem and a social health concern in

EYE/A4

**KING IN JAIL: Ruben Ecleo getting royal treatment from fellow inmates awed by his presence.** JUNJIE MENDOZA

# Ecleo lords it over in Cebu jail

## *Cult leader treated like royalty by awed fellow inmates*

By Jolene Bolambot
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. is guaranteed to feel at home in his prison cell at the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC) here.

His cell mates are so awed by the presence of the "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), they fan him to sleep and put themselves out to be of assistance.

Wearing a white sleeveless shirt and shorts and looking as if he was enjoying his stay, Ecleo yesterday received his first visitors—relatives, staffers and members of the PBMA's local chapter.

Some 82 PBMA members trooped to the BBRC at 8 a.m. yesterday to see Ecleo who welcomed his visitors with hugs and kisses, his seven cell mates hovering around fanning him with native fans.

Ecleo has made one request of his jailers—that he be given an electric fan to fight off the heat in the cell.

Some of his followers burst into tears as they embraced him. Others mopped up his sweat and helped him to change into another white shirt.

His brother, Ben Glen, brought Ecleo's 4-year-old daughter, Benna. The name is taken from the first names of Ecleo and his wife, Alona Bacolod.

Ecleo is facing parricide charges for the killing of Alona whose decomposing body was found stuffed into a garbage bag in Dalaguete town, about 8 km south of Cebu City, on Jan. 8.

Police attempts to serve an arrest warrant on Ecleo precipitated the bloodbath in his Dinagat island stronghold last Wednesday that left 19 of his heavily armed followers and one lawman dead.

Police said they would will file charges of illegal possession of firearms, murder and attempted murder against him and his followers for the death of one policeman and the wounding of two others.

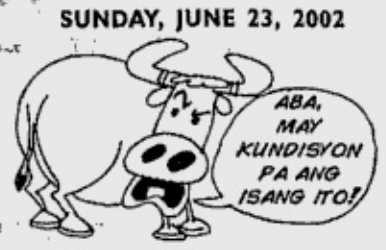
The cult leader also faces multiple murder charges for the massacre of Alona's

ECLEO/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2002

Second FRONT PAGE




# Marohombsar sets surrender terms

By Edwin O. Fernandez, Dennis Santos and Anthony S. Allada
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**COTABATO CITY—Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faizal Marohombsar said yesterday all he wants is to be assured of a fair trial by the government before he would yield.**

Marohombsar told Sen. Robert Barbers in a telephone conversation aired over Radio dxMS here yesterday that he was willing to meet with the solon to discuss this condition.

Barbers told Marohombsar he would mediate his surrender, the second time the Pentagon gang leader had sought the help of the senator to do so.

Marohombsar and two others bolted the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) headquarters detention cell in Camp Crame, Quezon City, early Wednesday morning.

Marohombsar later claimed he was being tortured to convert to Christianity, which was why he decided to escape.

His two companions, Rolando Patiño and Abdul Macaumpang, were charged with kidnapping and murder—Patiño for the abduction of Grace Ong and the killing of self-styled military group spokesperson Baron Cervantes, and Macarambong for the abduction of Greek national Filippos Orfanos.

The day after the three walked out of the Naktaf detention center, Marohombsar announced over radio that he was back in Mindanao. It was not known what happened to Macaumpang and Patiño or where they went.

The three had apparently switched the padlock on their cell, scaled the barbed wire fence surrounding the Naktaf compound and walked out of Camp Crame, which is the national police headquarters, and hailed a taxi.

Marohombsar said he went straight to the domestic airport where he boarded a commercial flight for Davao City using a ticket provided by "friends."

In Davao, he talked to reporters over the telephone, saying he was willing to surrender but only to Barbers.

"Help me get a fair trial and I will face all the charges against me," Marohombsar told Barbers yesterday during their on-air dialogue.

Marohombsar, whose gang was believed behind the abduction of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, said he was set to surrender to Barbers in February when Naktaf agents arrested him in Quiapo, Manila.

"They then filed various criminal charges against me, many of them trumped up just to pin me down," Marohombsar said.

Marohombsar told Barbers that while he was willing to face the charges, his group should be allowed to apply for the government's amnesty program.

MAROHOMBSAR

"Give us a chance to reform (because) we are not like the Abu Sayyaf. Help me and my men live a normal life," he told Barbers, referring to the more notorious kidnap for ransom gang in Mindanao that is now on the run in the face of American support for the Philippine military.

Marohombsar also promised to cooperate with government efforts to rid the police force of officers serving as protectors of kidnap gangs.

"I will tell you everything, Sir. I have evidence so they cannot deny it," he told Barbers.

In Davao City, the Aviation Security Group said Marohombsar could have used phony identification papers when he flew in from Manila early Wednesday morning.

Chief Insp. Beltran Guido, chief of the ASG, admitted the fugitive could have slipped in through the Davao International Airport.

But Guido said he doubted Marohombsar would take a commercial flight from Manila because he knew that authorities would be on the lookout for him.

"We closely monitor outgoing and incoming flights and we constantly check the manifesto but so far it was negative," he added.

"Lock your prison doors securely in order to prevent the escape of notorious criminals, some of whom are able to bolt jails with ease," Sen. Blas Ople told the Philippine National Police yesterday.

Ople was reacting to the escape from tight Naftak detention of Marohombsar, Patiño and Macaumpang.

"We have porous prisons that house more inmates than they could accommodate and whose doors are playthings for those wishing to escape," Ople said.

He expressed surprise at how the three could have escaped from the facility that used to house the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, a highly secured compound in the heart of Camp Crame.

"Jail guards should show more fidelity to their office," Ople said.

The 24 Naktaf guards on duty that night could face charges of violating the Anti-Graft Law if investigation shows the escape was indeed "like a walk in the park," as Marohombsar claimed.

This was the assertion of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto who said that aside from charges of infidelity in the custody of prisoners, the Naktaf guards could be charged with graft if it is shown they connived with the suspects.

"There may be some element of dishonesty somewhere. That all depends, of course, on the result of the investigation being conducted by the PNP," Desierto said.

The Ombudsman said his office would definitely pursue criminal cases against the guards if the police investigation shows criminal liability.

Marohombsar had described their escape as "a walk in the park" in radio interviews and telephone calls to reporters. After walking out of their cell, they scaled the barbed wire fence and flagged down a cab. He said he waited to be spotted and shot, but no such thing happened.

"If that's true, then it's clear there was negligence (on the part of the guards). It's impossible to escape if the guards (were) responsible officers," Desierto said.

***With Cynthia D. Balana and Norman Bordadora***

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# Gloria says some US troops to stay after July

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she would allow about 340 American soldiers to remain in the Philippines after the Balikatan counter-terrorism exercise ends next month.

The President said this was necessary in order to allow the US troops to finish the infrastructure projects they started in Mindanao to counter terrorism and extremism.

The American construction crews, comprised of Marine engineers and Navy Seabees, are part of a 1,200-strong US contingent scheduled to leave at the end of the joint exercise on Basilan island on July 31.

Ms Macapagal said she told military chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu to convey her decision to Adm. Thomas Fargo, chief of the US Pacific Command, when the two officials meet in Hawaii on Thursday to discuss the counter-terrorism training.

While most of the American troops, including about 160 US Special Forces training Filipino soldiers on Basilan, would have to go next month, "the Seabees and their security escorts may continue to work on local infrastructure projects," Ms Macapagal said.

The US construction teams are improving roads, bridges, piers, wells and an airstrip to allow faster military deployments against the al Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf.

The US Special Forces are training local troops and have provided weapons for one of Asia's poorest militaries.

US officials have said they would try to finish the projects by next month. Work has been delayed by security problems, lack of construction materials and the onset of the rainy season, they said.

Many residents of Basilan, an impoverished, jungle-covered island 880 kilometers south of Manila, have asked President Macapagal to extend the US military presence to ensure the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang is wiped out and the infrastructure projects are completed.

Ms Macapagal said US and Philippine officials are discussing a new military training exercise. She did not elaborate, but added she would discuss this and the ongoing US training mission with President George W. Bush later Saturday.

Macapagal and Bush had agreed to allow US military advisers to get closer to Basilan frontlines with local combat troops during the remaining weeks of the exercise.

That decision was delayed due to concerns the Americans would be exposed to greater danger and potential clashes in a country that bars foreign troops from engaging in combat. The US troops are armed but authorized only to fire in self-defense.

The Filipino troops are close to eradicating the Abu Sayyaf after they rescued one of their remaining foreign hostages and shot a top gang leader off a boat on Friday. ***AP***

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# Revilla homecoming changes nothing–Angara

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE OPPOSITION was unperturbed by the return of administration Sen. Ramon Revilla the other day from the United States, even as this evened the count along coalition lines to 12 apiece.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the even count has not changed anything, and insisted the Senate president could always break a tie.

Angara stressed the 12 opposition senators remained united, and denied that two of them were set to join the administration bloc, as claimed by Sen. Robert Barbers.

"When sessions resume on July 22," Angara said, "the pro-administration senators who now constitute the new minority have to accept what the rules and tradition say—that the committees have been reorganized and that there is a new majority."

Angara assured the administration the opposition would support all bills and initiatives that promote national interest.

He stressed, however, the new majority would be vigilant against charges of official corruption and abuse of power.

To prove the opposition was not fazed by Revilla's homecoming, Angara said they have scheduled technical working group meetings starting next week to draft committee reports and agree on consensus points for major legislation pending with the upper chamber.

On Wednesday, the technical working group of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws, and electoral reforms, will meet to draft the most important provisions of a bill that seeks a generous allowance plan for judges and court personnel.

The same working group will meet to draft the committee report on two related measures—the campaign finance reform bill, and the political party measure.

Angara earlier approved the convening of his committee's technical working group to speed up work on vital measures being deliberated. .

He said the "intense" work being done by the technical working groups was the opposition senators' way of saying they were the new majority, and that the reorganized Senate committees were fully functioning.

# Solon fights Pinay abuse

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Manuel Villar has filed a bill that would put into place in several government departments comprehensive measures that should curtail the trafficking and exploitation of Filipino women.

The bill seeks to protect women who are forced into prostitution both in the Philippines and abroad.

"The measure would provide Filipino women with added protection against those out to take advantage of them for monetary gain," Villar said.

He said women recruited from the provinces by organized white slavery groups are forced to work in bars as prostitutes or are sold by international crime syndicates abroad.

Leading the government agencies that will be involved in the fight against prostitution is the Department of Interior and Local Government, which will strictly monitor women-trafficking activities.

The Department of Tourism will be assigned to formulate guidelines against "sex tour packages," while the Department of Labor and Employment will be asked to enforce strict guidelines relative to the employment of women locally and abroad.

"Being co-equal partners in nation-building, the necessary protections must be given to our women who have suffered abuse all these years," Villar said.

He said that despite Republic Act 6955, which made it unlawful to match Filipino women with foreigners for marriage on a "mail order basis," more laws are needed to stop trafficking in women.


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# 90 eggs to ensure sunshine for Mikey

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

LUBAO, Pampanga—Ninety eggs and 13 Carmelite nuns.

This extraordinary combination is coming together for a single important mission: To stop the rains on the wedding day tomorrow of presidential son Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Angela Montenegro.

With the leaky roof of the 430-year-old St. Augustine Church here left unrepaired after Arroyo ran out of funds to shell out, Alfredo Tolentino, Central Luzon director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, decided to turn to the monastic sisters for divine help.

### Tradition

In the Macapagal's home province of Pampanga, it is traditional for Catholics to offer fresh eggs to implore the heavens for blessings and miracles.

The eggs, freshly bought from a poultry farm in Apalit town, were delivered to the Carmelite convent in nearby Guagua town on Friday when heavy rains were battering the rest of the province.

Among old folks, rain that falls on a Friday signals a *siyam-siyam* or nine days of continuous downpours.

Aside from the dripping roof, floods threaten to ruin the wedding, which took almost four months to prepare for.

Lubao is a coastal town and monsoon rains inundate the town for days. Several pumps from the DPWH were seen in the churchyard, ready just in case rainwater spills out to the church, which is located in low-lying Barangay San Nicolas here.

### Frenzy

Today, two days before the wedding, almost 300 construction workers will be rushing to finish the renovations in the church, the province's oldest Augustinian structure and said to be the third oldest in the Philippines.

Built in 1572, the church was originally made of brick and sand mixed with egg albumen donated by local residents, according to Fr. Rodolfo de Guzman, parish priest.

The work has been going on around the clock, according to a carpenter who had just finished working on the door of what he called the "presidential toilet."

"It's off limits except for the First Family," he said.

The *retablo* (where statues are placed) of 20 saints, with St. Augustine at the center, is being given a sheen and the termite-damaged wood at its base has been replaced with a modest carving from Betis, the furniture capital of Pampanga.

### Fresh paint

The altar had an extended wooden platform added to it, where on Saturday young boys rehearsed the rites of the Holy Mass.

Weeks of buffing have revealed the old red bricks on the walls on which the *retablo* rests.

In the choir loft, the metal grills and railings have been painted black, and technicians from the Yupangco Music Co. have installed cables for the sound system.

Inside, the smell of fresh paint—in hues of white and cream—lingered from the heavy walls and the semicircular wooden ceilings.

BIRTHDAY CHEER. Everyone had a good time at former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson's 61st birthday celebration in Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur, on Friday, especially after President Macapagal-Arroyo received word Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya had been killed. Others in photo are Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, behind, and Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, right.
VAL HANDUMON

# 'FPJ should join Lakas if he wants to help'

IF he is not interested in running for President in 2004, popular movie star Fernando Poe Jr. should join the ruling Lakas party as its "adviser on charismatic affairs," said Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers.

Barbers said the House of Representatives' "Spice Boys" would ask Poe—better known as "FPJ" or "Ang Panday" to his legion of movie fans—to help the party's candidates win in 2004.

"We need someone with unprecedented popularity and charisma and FPJ will definitely be an asset to the party," said Barbers.

He said his contemporaries who have "idolized" FPJ since they were young would be proud to have him join the party.

Though Poe is known to be a close friend of ousted ex-President Joseph Estrada, "if he would like to help the country, his political inclinations should take a backseat," Barbers added.

He said Poe's joining Lakas as an adviser would end speculation he will run for President in 2004 to get Estrada out of jail.

Taking up the call, the congressman's father, Sen. Robert Barbers, said he admired Poe's humility in rejecting calls for him to run in 2004.

"He (Poe) should be commended for declining the offer and for believing that being away from politics would not stop him from helping the needy," the senator said.

The elder Barbers said he was confident no opposition candidate could beat the "strong leadership" of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

Barbers said the performance of the President and her economic development programs showed that her administration was "picking up."

"The people would not prefer to change direction if they see that they are already on the road to recovery with President Macapagal," the senator said.

Barbers also dismissed opposition claims that anyone from their camp would easily win in 2004.

He said it was the strategy of the opposition to prop themselves up when they are having a difficult time finding a "winnable" candidate to pit against the President.

"President Macapagal is a sure winner in 2004 and there is no strong candidate from the opposition that will give us trouble," Barbers said. ***Juliet Labog-Javellana and Cynthia Balana***

# Eye doctors help blind Basilan folk see the light

(From page A1)

our communities," Sinolinding explained. In the country, about half a million people are blind. More than 1 million others are potential victims of blindness. According to Sinolinding, at least 1.5 million Filipinos have eye ailments.

He said about the same number of people have become non-productive because they have to tend to their blind relatives.

"This is a big loss to the country," he said.

Sinolinding said that in his desire to bring ophthalmic services to the poor, he banded with a group of eye doctors in Kabacan and nearby areas.

The group then decided to devote time to reaching out to the poor, never mind if they would never make as much money as their counterparts in urban areas.

Sinolinding flew to Basilan amid the continued military offensives against the extremist Abu Sayyaf with one commitment to the people of the impoverished island-province: To bring light to those who are groping in darkness.

Helping Sinolinding in the program are eye doctors Matabai Lim and Jake Factora, surgeon Samuel Pahm and anesthesiologist Jordan Berguia.

Sinolinding might have been lacking in cash, but money can't buy what he has now.

Late last year, he was named one of the Outstanding Young Persons of the World by the Jaycees International and was handed the award in Barcelona, Spain.

### Service matter

For most doctors, the capacity of their patients to pay has always been one of the considerations for treating them. But for Sinolinding, money never mattered.

"It doesn't affect my practice as private ophthalmologist. The project helps poor people, who would rather go blind than not eat at all because of the high cost of surgery," he said.

Sinolinding said the group's scheme calls for sharing the cost with patients who can afford the treatment to help finance the cost of operation for poor patients.

"We are trying to help by bridging the gap (between rich and poor), giving emphasis on the cooperation of eye patients and ophthalmologists in poor provinces," Sinolinding said.

Since 1997, Sinolinding said, the group had treated about 6,000 patients in poor areas, including those from the ARMM.

### Pay when able

Sinolinding said patients are encouraged to make donations to keep the eye program going.

"We receive payment from those who can afford it but will not demand payment from those who cannot," Sinolinding said.

But whether or not the patient is paying, the same services are being provided, he said.

Sinolinding's group has also turned to local and international funding agencies for financial assistance.

These include the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives through the Canadian International Development Agency, the Cataract Foundation of the Philippines, the Christoffel Blinden Mission of Germany, Mabuhay Deseret Foundation and Deseret International Foundation of USA.

In recent years, he has been traveling to remote and dangerous places to serve the poorest of the poor and has worked in the most ill-equipped hospitals and health care facilities in conflict areas.

### Doctor for all

Saying no to offers to practice in urban areas, Sinolinding preferred to take care of patients who had never seen a doctor.

At the height of the government offensive against Moro rebels in mainland Mindanao, Sinolinding said he was caught between warring groups.

In another instance, militiamen fired on his group while they were treating patients in a makeshift clinic.

He was also accused of assisting wounded Moro guerrillas.

Weighing the results of his work against the risks has only made him more resolute about rendering the kind of medical service to those who need it.

"It's great when you know that there are people who care about you," said Oliver Araneta, a 21-year-old patient. That is more than enough compensation for this group of eye doctors.

# Abalos asks Palace for more money for Comelec

**By Armand N. Nocum**

NEWLY installed Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday he will ask Malacañang to increase the poll body's budget to prevent dangerous fraternization between Comelec executives and local officials.

In an interview, Abalos cited an instance in Mindanao where a Comelec official was constrained to hold his office in a town mayor's house due to lack of funds.

Abalos said lack of money also forced some local Comelec officials to obtain even the most basic office supplies from elected government executives.

Abalos said this leads to Comelec officers being beholden to local officials.

### Dependent

He said the Comelec needs sufficient funding to bankroll its operations and to avoid being dependent on elected officials who must come under the scrutiny of the poll agency during elections.

*"Sa gayon, maiiwasan ang anumang intriga o dayaan. Nagagamit ang mga tauhan namin sa pandaraya particular na sa mga lalawigan dahil sa umano'y utang na loob* (This way we can avoid intrigues and cheating. Our people unwittingly become instruments of election fraud because of debt of gratitude.)," he said.

He said he saw no other way to address the problem other than by increasing the Comelec's budget. By budget, he said he was referring to the outlay provided by Malacañang for special projects of the poll body and not to its outlay that comes from the national budget.

### Complaint

In a related development, a local official of Castillejos, Zambales, has filed a complaint with the Comelec against a local judge for alleged erroneous interpretation of Comelec rules.

Castillejos Mayor Wilma Billman said Olongapo Regional Trial Court Judge Eliodoro Ubadias' ruling cheated her of victory in the last elections.

In her complaint, Billman said she won by 386 votes over opponent Enrique Magsaysay in last year's May polls.

But when Magsaysay took the matter to court, she said Ubadias ruled that a total of 1,409 votes for her were invalid.

"With the erroneous, fallacious, inaccurate and incorrect application of the rules on the appreciation of ballots under Section 211 of the Omnibus Election Code, Ubadias created a basis for declaring 1,409 votes cast in favor of Billman as marked ballots and, therefore, rejected them," Billman's lawyer said in the complaint.


ARELLANO UNIVERSITY WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO PASSED THE 2002 NURSING LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS

**ARLENE D. LATORRE**
**4th PLACE**

**MYRA A. PINEDA**
**14th PLACE**

1. ALVAREZ, JEREMIAH R.
2. BAGUNU, MARY JANE V.
3. BERCILLA, MARIA TERESA C.
4. CALSO, CELIA C.
5. GERONIMO, ABEGAIL M.
6. GUERRERO, CHRISTOPHER D.
7. LATORRE, ARLENE D.- 4th PLACE
8. LUGTU, DESIRIE JOY H.
9. PEREZ MAYRA F.
10. PINEDA, MYRA A.-14th PLACE
11. PUNO, AVELINA C.
12. QUEJADA, LODEVINA E.
13. RACCA, GUADA RAQUEL M.
14. SANCHEZ, NOILA J.
15. SAN MIGUEL, GLAZY C.
16. SERVITO, VENUS M.
17. VIGO, JAQUILYN O.
18. VILLANUEVA, MARIATHERESAY.
19. VISCARA, EVELYN T.
20. BOBADILLA, JULIETA B.
21. CAPILLO, CONSORCIA G.
22. ILUSTRE, EVANGELINA B.
23. LALANGAN, JOSEPH C.
24. ROQUE, MARIO E.
25. LEÑIDA, HAYDEE T.

***National Passing Average - 46%*** ***Arellano University - 62%***

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# Mahathir says he's quitting

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad shocked his country Saturday by announcing he was stepping down from leading his party and the governing coalition, but reversed himself after weeping supporters begged him to stay.

The political theater, played out in a televised broadcast, whipsawed the emotions of the nation and of the 2,000 delegates to the annual party congress of the ruling United Malays National Organization.

The Islamic fundamentalist opposition, Mahathir's target in elections that loyalists are urging him to call early next year, dismissed the move as political grandstanding.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told a news conference later that Mahathir would be going on leave for a few days but would still visit Thailand as scheduled July 5-7.

Abdullah said Mahathir had told him the time was right to step down and that he had not consulted his family.

"If I want to consult people about my intentions to resign, nobody would agree," Abdullah quoted him as saying. "I would never have the chance to resign. Nobody will say yes."

The National Front chair is traditionally Malaysia's prime minister, but Mahathir did not specifically say he was quitting the premiership, a post he has held 21 years. Officials said that it was his intention to give up that job, too.

The hall was a scene of pandemonium when Mahathir, giving a closing speech to the congress, shifted from quoting Shakespeare and outlining government programs to state that he was resigning.

"I wish to announce I am resigning from Umno and all positions in the National Front," Mahathir said.

Mahathir, 76, had looked fit and combative, but suddenly sagged.

He was eventually led to a meeting room where party elders persuaded him to stay. A doctor later entered.

The party's supreme council went into an emergency session and was expected to offer Mahathir full support. ***AP***

# Philippines still on international 'laundering' list

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES remains on the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) list of countries uncooperative in the global fight against dirty money.

There are a total of 15 countries on this year's list, as reported Friday by FATF, the Paris-based international watchdog against money laundering. The 14 others are: Cook Islands, Dominica, Egypt, Grenada, Guatemala, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Russia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Ukraine.

Israel has been removed from the blacklist, along with Hungary, Lebanon, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

In an interview yesterday, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the FATF might want the Philippine Congress to tighten provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering Act that took effect on Oct.17, 2001.

"We are waiting for official instructions," Buenaventura said.

### Expected

Local authorities had expected the Philippines to remain on the list. But, Buenaventura said, if the remaining concerns of the FATF could be addressed this year, the country might be taken off the list in February, when the task force holds its next regular meeting.

Global experts estimated that some $600 billion in illegally acquired funds were being laundered worldwide yearly. This represented between two to five percent of the world's gross domestic product.

There were no estimates of how much of this amount was being laundered through the Philippines, but there have been suspicions that this included the financial support that the Abu Sayyaf bandits allegedly received from Osama bin Laden.

### Not convinced

Accusations of money laundering have also been hurled against ousted President Joseph Estrada, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Buenaventura also chairs the local Anti-Money Laundering Council, which monitors the movement of dirty funds, and initiates legal action against suspicious accounts.

A council insider said the government had not convinced the FATF that the loopholes in the country's anti-laundering law were addressed by the implementing rules and regulations signed last March. The global watchdog was still concerned about two items related to the legislation.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Sunday, June 23, 2002**
**12th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**1st Reading: Jer 20:10-13**

Jeremiah said, "I hear many people whispering, 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Yes, denounce him!' All my friends watch me to see if I will slip: 'Perhaps he can be deceived,' they say; 'then we can get the better of him and have our revenge.' But Yahweh, a mighty warrior, is with me. My persecutors will stumble and not prevail; that failure will be their shame and their disgrace will never be forgotten. Yahweh, God of hosts, you test the just and probe the heart and mind. Let me see your revenge on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to Yahweh! Praise Yahweh and say: he has rescued the poor from the clutches of the wicked!"

**2nd Reading: Rom 5:12-15**

Brothers and sisters, sin entered the world through one man and through sin, death, and later on death spread to all humankind, because all sinned. As long as there was no law, they could not speak of disobedience, but sin was already in the world. This is why from Adam to Moses death reigned among them, although their sin was not disobedience as in Adam's case—this was not the true Adam, but foretold the other who was to come.

Such has been the fall, but God's gift goes far beyond. Multitudes die because of the fault of one man, but how much more does the grace of God spread when the gift he granted reaches the multitudes, from this unique man Jesus Christ.

**Gospel: Mt 10:26-33**

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows, "Do not be afraid. There is nothing covered that will not be uncovered, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I am telling you in the dark, you must speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but have no power to kill the soul. Rather be afraid of him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. For only a few cents you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. o do not be afraid: you are worth much more than many sparrows.

Whoever acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven. Whoever rejects me before others I will reject before my Father in heaven."

**Commentary**

Now that my hair has turned gray, I fondly remember my "St. Francis fever" of my youth. My ideal then was to be absolutely poor with absolutely nothing and totally dependent on Divine Providence, to which my spiritual director would reply, "Go ahead, remove your clothes and fly!"

That was my reading then of the words of Jesus. But as I matured in age and in my understanding of the Gospel, the more I realized the wisdom in the popular saying "God shows mercy to people who work."

Work is part of our dignity as human persons; work is God's blessing. As we work, we share in the work God had begun on the first day of creation. As his co-workers, we also share in the blessing of God to his/her creation.

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# RP protests cuffing of deportees

By Christine Herrera

A MOVE to handcuff 52 overstaying Filipinos and their families throughout their flight back from the United States tomorrow is being strongly protested by the Philippines.

The INQUIRER learned yesterday that foreign affairs officials were racing against time to prevent the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) from carrying out the plan to put the deportees, possibly over a hundred in all, "under physical restraints."

Philippine Ambassador to the US Albert del Rosario earlier wrote to the INS, arguing that the Filipinos should not be treated like criminals.

In his letter dated June 19, Del Rosario said, "Although these Filipinos may have violated (US) immigration laws, they do not pose a threat to any passenger or to the aircraft. They should be treated in a manner consistent with (recognition of) every individuals' dignity."

Del Rosario furnished the US State Department with a copy of the letter.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that neither the INS nor the US State Department had formally responded to Del Rosario's appeal. However, Lecaros said the INS did give an assurance that it would look into the matter.

All that Del Rosario wanted to be told, Lecaros said, was that the deportees would not be handcuffed, which was usually what "physical restraints" implied. "We hope to be informed of their decision before the June 23 (June 24 in Manila) flight aboard an American aircraft," Lecaros said.

### Integrity

The DFA was withholding information on the flight schedule and the deportees' identities, Lecaros said, "to protect their integrity."

It was not the Philippines' business how the US wanted to enforce its laws, the DFA spokesperson admitted, but he said "a little consideration" was in order.

"We're trying to prevent the children—since the deportees are travelling with their families—from having to see their parents being put under restraints," Lecaros said.

Stricter enforcement of immigration laws was one of the United States' first acts in its stepped-up campaign against terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks. In a ruling dated April 11, 2002, the INS limited the period of a tourists' stay in the US to 30 days down from the usual six months.

The DFA could not say whether the deportees were recent visitors or long-time residents.

Reminded that the Philippines had in fact been cooperative in the US campaign against terrorism, Lecaros said: "Apparently, this does not matter when it comes to enforcement of their immigration laws."

The INS is said to have told Del Rosario that the Filipinos were being deported not because they were terrorists or suspected as such, but because they were staying illegally in the US. They had been served with final orders of deportation, the INS said, "either issued administratively by the INS, or by an INS judge, or by a criminal court."

### Tourists

Because they did not comply with the voluntary order for deportation, the Filipinos were included in the Absconder's Apprehension List. They were subsequently apprehended in various places, at different times.

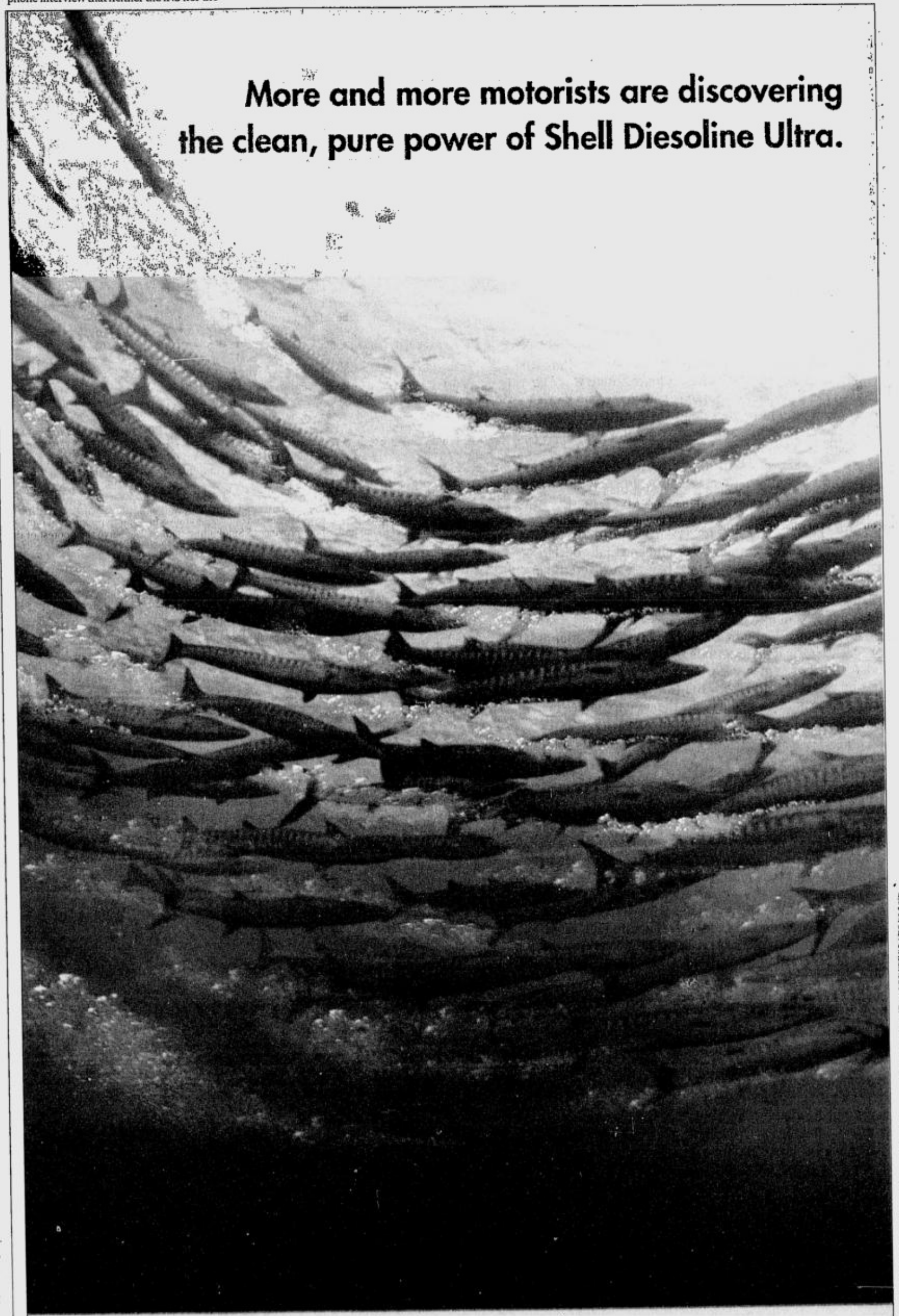
Former US non-immigrant visa chief Edward Keller previously reported that last year alone, 192,000 Filipinos were issued non-immigrant visas, half of them for tourists. The INS' April ruling has since resulted in a stricter scrutiny of tourist visa applications, increasing the number denials.

"The (Sept. 11) attacks demonstrated that the one-year maximum stay in the US for tourists is susceptible to abuse by aliens who seek to plan and execute acts of terrorism," the INS had said, explaining the 30-day-limit on visits.

### Legal process

Del Rosario said the INS assured the Philippine Embassy that the deportees were afforded due legal process. Still, he said, the embassy and the consular posts, seeking to prevent similar incidents in the future, had made representations with the INS and its regional offices, the US State Department and, through the DFA, the US Embassy in Manila.

They requested the US agencies, Del Rosario said, to ensure that all present and future deportees would be afforded due process before actual deportation, that they would be treated humanely and accorded with dignity, and that the different consulates would be given access to all deportees and detainees.



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*Founding Chairman*

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# OPINION

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## One down

THE REPORTS about the death of Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya have been received with understandable skepticism. Until his body surfaces, the sense of closure that his victims need—and in that sorry list we must include the entire nation—will be incomplete.

This is not the first time Sabaya has been reported to have died after falling off a boat. In December 2000, some eight months after the Abu Sayyaf swooped down on the diving resort in Sipadan, Malaysia and about five months before the bandit group descended on the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, the sunglass-wearing terrorist was also reported to have been killed. He was said to have fallen off a pumpboat somewhere in the waters of Sulu, during an attempt to evade pursuing soldiers.

**EDITORIALS**

The events last Friday were thus eerily familiar: a pumpboat chase, missing bodies. But now there was one crucial difference. Those who took part in the gun battle, the soldiers who gave chase and the four bandits who survived the encounter and were arrested, corroborated one another's account.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, was emphatic about the outcome. "I don't have any doubt," Carolina said. "It's just a matter of getting (Sabaya's) body from where it sank in Sibuco." Carolina's boss, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, tried to sound a more cautious note. "We cannot officially declare that (Sabaya is dead) because we haven't recovered the body," Reyes said. But Reyes' boss, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, declared that Sabaya had been "shot and killed. He fell into the sea and drowned."

Without Sabaya's body, the President's declaration is not as categorical as it sounds. And yet the news last Friday still represents a clear victory in the war against the Abu Sayyaf. Aside from the four arrested, at least three other bandits were killed by the military forces in a daring dawn operation—without any casualties on the AFP's side. The country's soldiers deserve the warm praise of a grateful nation.

## More to go

FOR MOST people, and for ex-hostages of the Abu Sayyaf, its spokesperson symbolized the worst excesses of the bandit group.

Former hostage Ma. Fe Rosadeno spoke for many when she welcomed the reports of Sabaya's death with straight talk. "It's good to know that that animal is dead. I want to see his body so I can kick it." Rosadeno was the fiancée of American hostage Guillermo Sobero, who was beheaded a year ago.

But Abu Sabaya, we need to point out again, is not the Abu Sayyaf. From all indications, the group has become a shadow of its former self, but because it operates by the rules of guerrilla warfare, it can still wreak havoc in the countryside. The four Indonesians abducted from the Singaporean-registered tugboat off Maluso, Basilan last week, for instance, were most likely kidnapped by an Abu Sayyaf unit headed by Hamsiraji Sali. One has escaped, but three remain in captivity, most likely in Luuk, Sulu.

The military's best estimate is that, aside from the main group of Khaddafy Janjalani, several smaller groups continue to operate in Basilan and in Sulu. The bandit leaders who plumbed the depths of notoriety during the Sipadan hostage crisis, including Commander Global and Commander Robot, remain at large. They can't be allowed to enjoy the millions of dollars they collected in ransom for their foreign captives or, worse, to carry on where they left off, armed with more sophisticated weapons and equipment.

The men instrumental in the kidnapping of the Dos Palmas hostages—Janjalani, Jose Ramirez, Isnilon Hapilon, Abu Solayman—also remain free, although they are most probably on the run.

This isn't total victory yet. The defense secretary is therefore right to be circumspect. "I don't think we should start celebrating yet," Reyes said on Friday. "The terrorist threat remains and we should always remain vigilant. The worse thing that can happen is when we become complacent and surprised when another terrorist attack occurs."

## Irrelevancies

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

SHERLOCK Holmes said that the mind must be like a filing cabinet where only important things must be stored, neatly classified for easy retrieval whenever necessary. Trivia should not clutter the mind because these would lead to confused thinking and obstruct the free flow of ideas that otherwise might be encumbered with irrelevancies.

Not his words, actually, but that's the sense of what he said, in one of the many books about his adventures that I devoured like a glutton during my teen years. That was ages ago when radio was still a newfangled contraption and the Vatican denounced the brassiere as the Devil's work. I have generally followed Holmes' eminently practical advice, but with some memorable lapses proving that I do not have his organized mind. There are some interesting albeit pedestrian recollections that have lurked in my brain these many years along with the lofty thoughts of Jose Rizal and Thomas Jefferson.

One of these was of a survey conducted by a witty magazine called Pageant, long since prematurely dead. The question was, What was the first thing American women did upon waking up in the morning? The answers were mostly humdrum: going to the bathroom, saying prayers, preparing breakfast, exercising, etc. One snob said taking a dip in the pool and a lush said taking a drink. But the best-ever sensible answer was given by the middle-aged woman who said seriously: "I sit down for a few minutes and rest."

If I remember correctly, it was the same magazine that carried the story of a man who was escaping from a fire in his room and had to leave through the window in a hurry. The trouble was that he was only in his boxer shorts and had no time to put on his pants. So there he was, hanging from the window and waiting desperately for the firemen to rescue him. Soon enough a crowd gathered to watch. As the embarrassed man related it later, "So there I was hanging half-naked from the window, hollering for somebody to save me, and everybody looking up could see my predicament."

When I was the managing partner of our old law office, one of the associates complained to me that he was feeling out of sorts and seemed to be losing his memory. I gave him a leave of absence so he could get a rest cure. After a couple of weeks, he reported back looking fresh and chipper and said he was well again after staying in the hospital as I had suggested. "That's fine," I said, and conversationally, "so where was your hospital?" The suddenly worried fellow's brow wrinkled in thought and after a long while he muttered to himself. *"Saan nga ba iyon?"*

On a more serious note, there is that other story I read many years ago that I remember to this day because of its ironic twist. It happened in Paris where a person visited a friend in his office and, while they were chatting, the night watchman came to deliver something to his employer. Upon seeing him, the visitor stared at him in shocked silence. When the watchman left, the visitor exclaimed, "I saw that man in my dream stabbing you to death! You must dismiss him at once!"

The friend hesitated because the night watchman was a faithful employee, but after much urging and appeals for his own safety, followed the visitor's advice. The old guard was summarily dismissed the next day. A week later, the visitor learned that his friend had been stabbed to death by the employee, as in his earlier dream. The killer said the victim had unjustly fired him after serving him for 30 years. No reason had been given for his dismissal.

From the broad perspective, stories and incidents like these appear inconsequential. But they somehow stick in the mind like interesting if valueless memories. That story about my associate lawyer is something I am fond of relating. The naughty suggestion about the man, and his predicament is likely to lighten a moment's tedium. I always have a silent laugh when I recall that practical woman's answer and wonder what she might have been doing all night to need a few minutes rest afterwards. And the tragic aftermath of that dream's warning can only stress to us the uncertainties of life and death.

It's all very well to have an organized mind like Sherlock Holmes, with only the serious things on file. But for most of us ordinary mortals, trivialities and sometimes even inanities can relieve the boredom or tension of everyday living. Not everything we learn is important enough to deserve remembering like the deadlines for court pleadings or the payment of taxes. Most of the things we read are garbage; the ostentations in the society pages and the frivolities of the movie stars are sheer frippery. But they do prevent us from being a genius like the great detective, who was also a drug addict.

Vice President John Nance Garner once remarked, perhaps with wry regret, that his office as a gloried spare tire was "not worth a pitcher of warm spit." Not an earth-shaking revelation, to be sure, and certainly inelegant, but it is a universally accepted truth except to the fortunate La Gloria. File it.

## Shadows and fears

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

I GREW up in a town where there was no electricity. When evening set in, candles or kerosene lamps gave us light. For entertainment, we would sit around and tell stories. That was fun. But not when ghost stories were the topic of the night and especially when the candles and the kerosene lamps had gone out, and a young boy was still wide awake, imagining every kind of sound and movement in the darkness.

What did I do to calm my fears? I would hold my rosary in my little hands, and pray, as Mama told us, for the poor souls in purgatory, and before I knew it I was fast asleep. Then it was morning and bright again. That's how I managed my fears, and survived the nights in Bani, Pangasinan..

* * *

**As we grow older, we still have fears. Our fears don't leave us, we just manage them better as we grow up. I still have fears, but they are different from those of a boy. Still the principle of managing whatever fears I have is the same: entrusting myself to someone greater than me, and seeking refuge in this someone who loves me and cares for me. There is no better antidote to fear than trust.**

**Do you have many fears? What are you afraid of as an adult? Learn to trust more—God, yourself and others—and you will fear less.**

* * *

The words "Be not afraid" occur in the Bible more than 365 times. Wow! That's a good reminder for every single day of the year, and more.

In today's Gospel (Mt. 10, 26-33), Jesus repeats the words "Be not afraid" three times. Jesus addresses the three basic fears we face as adults: fear of truth, fear of death and fear of our unworthiness. On all counts, Jesus is telling us: Do not be afraid to face and tell the truth for I am with you; do not be afraid to face death, for I am with you; do not be afraid of your unworthiness, because I am with you. It is His presence then that casts away all our fears.

I was right then when, as a little boy, I ran to His presence whenever I was afraid. Likewise, we as adults would do well to run to His presence whenever fear grips us.

* * *

**The problem with us is that often we do not run to His presence, but run to His presents or to whoever and whatever is readily present. Thus we go to work or seek pleasures, vices, material riches and comforts to calm our fears. Often, too, we try not to confront our fears like the ostrich that buries its head into the ground whenever danger comes. In dealing with fears, palliatives don't suffice. We must be radical. We must be rooted in God, and then we are ready to face anything and anyone.**

* * *

I've quoted it before, and I quote it again: "Face the light, and the shadow is behind you. Turn your back to the light, and the shadow is in front of you." Do you have any fear lurking in your life right now? Face it, and 50 percent of the problem will already be solved. As long as you continue to deny, postpone and procrastinate in facing them, you will be haunted by your fears.

* * *

**I visited a brother priest this week. It was his birthday, his third in the city jail. You cannot imagine what it is like to be in a crowded jail—the heat, the stench, the boredom and the hopelessness. Even the air was stuffy and different in his cell.**

**But there was something fresh and free about him as we talked. His body was frail, but his spirit was strong. He had all sorts of boils and sores, but as I listened to him, his spirit was flawless and unblemished. Why? Because he has surrendered all his fears and worries to the Lord, he said.**

**Yes, I was talking in that prison cell to a free man, a man free from worries, free from fears, free from insecurities, free from guilt and free from fear itself. He has hit rock bottom, and he found out that God was there still to free him and lift him up.**

* * *

Today is the 15th death anniversary of our Papa. He was a simple man. He did not have the three G's—Guns, Goons and Gold—but he taught us by his words and life example the three G's of God, Goodness and Guts. He always told us that if we have God and goodness, we will have the guts to face the world and whatever lies ahead.

Parents, teach your children not to lean on worldly powers and riches, but to hold on to God and goodness. They will be okay long after you are gone if you teach them to hold on to God.

* * *

**Remember this song? "Be brave little one, make a wish for each sad little tear. Hold your head up, through no one is near, someone's waiting for you. Don't cry little one, there'll be a smile where a frown used to be. You'll be part of that life that you see, someone's waiting for you. Always keep a little prayer in your pocket and you're sure to see the light, soon there'll be joy and happiness, and your little world will be brighter. Have faith little one, till your hopes and your wishes come true. You must try to be brave little one, someone's waiting to love you."**

**Sing it to yourself, sing it to your loved ones, and let God sing this song to you today to cast away your shadows and fears.**

* * *

A MOMENT WITH THE LORD:

*Lord, you know all my fears. Remove all shadows and fears. Amen.*

# Good works overshadowed by priests' misconduct

COMMENTARY

*Lourdes Didith V. Mendoza*
*Institute on Chruch and Social Issues*

THE CATHOLIC Church has been receiving so much flak these days. Accusations of sexual misconduct have hounded it, and they will probably continue, with alternate periods of high and low intensity.

Some accusations may be real, but it is not just or right to generalize that if one or two eggs in a box are rotten, all of them are. The rotten ones just produce so much stench that everything else smells bad, too. If some priests stray from their vows, we can't call all of them traitors. There are some, if not many, who remain true to their chosen vocation, and strive to keep the good name of the Church.

In Mindanao, for example, there are a good number of priests who work silently to keep the flame of Christ alive in the midst of poverty and hostilities. If in big cities like ours, for instance, a priest is hard to reach, down south, a priest would give up a good night's sleep in order to keep the faith burning, not just by mere words but by example.

There is a bishop in Mindanao who ministers to his diocese so animatedly that the people call him the laughing priest. He will bless an ordinary person's new house and mingle with guests indiscriminately no matter how late it is. You can easily spot him not just because of his hefty girth, but also because of the guffaws of laughter coming from his corner.

He doesn't see divisions in his area, he sees opportunities for unity. I once saw him visit a mosque and donate a small amount of money there.

He wouldn't mind driving all night to reach a town far from his own. He says he is needed, so he has to be there.

The Church workers in Mindanao are also to be admired. When they visit Manila, people sometimes dismiss them as small-town social workers, and laugh at their accents. But the work that they do is something we Mañilenos will find amazing. They go to far-flung places, cross shark-infested waters in order to preach, not just by words, but by actions, that God is alive within us, and see no sects, no divisions. By their example, Mindanaoans are able to see that they are persons of dignity and worthy to be given attention.

The Church's presence in the provinces is formidable. It is a miracle in itself, seeing that most of our provinces are poor. But what they lack materially they make up for with overflowing spirituality. In the province, there is real community, thanks in part to priests and other religious of the Church, and the other religions such as Islam who try to keep the peace and the faith despite the appearance of division.

Unfortunately, in Metro Manila, priests have been laboring under a bad media image the past few months. Starting with Erap's downfall, it has been observed that it has become difficult for them to mobilize people, especially the poor, for a common goal. The urban poor, it seems, have gotten tired of listening to them. And with the growing population in the National Capital Region, the clergy has been spread so thin that it is almost impossible to reach even half of the metropolis, given their present resources and situations. The added burden of having to contend with accusations of sexual misconduct may just be too much to bear.

Admittedly, some of the accusations may have weight. The hierarchy of the Church knows this, and to date, there are consultations being done on this issue to ensure justice for the victims and appropriate action and rehabilitation for the offenders. There is something being done.

The Church and its representatives all over the world have also repeatedly pronounced their regrets over all their mistakes, not just on this specific issue, but on other myriad issues as well. Though the accusations thrown at it were damaging, it has humbled itself many times over by asking for understanding for its many failures. In sensitive cases such as sexual misconduct where the dignity and privacy of both victim and offender should be preserved, more understanding is needed.

This does not mean that we should excuse them or ignore the matter altogether, especially if the cases are real. It just means that we should deal with the matter maturely and let the rightful authorities handle them. There is no need to muddle the issue, for it is already muddled enough.

Maybe the best thing that the Church can do is to continue the good work that it is doing, and strengthen its formation by stressing the areas that need focus the most. The misconduct of some priests is just one of them. It could also animate basic ecclesial communities to foster a society where the dignity of persons is the top priority.

# Sequel in the making for a botched rescue

COMMENTARY

*Eloisa F. Callender*

THE PHILIPPINES is sometimes described as a country that spent 300 years in the convent and 50 years in Hollywood, referring to her three centuries of Spanish colonization and a half century of American domination. Thus, it is no surprise that the kidnapping of Americans Martin and Gracia Burnham in the Philippines ended like a bad Hollywood movie.

The Burnhams were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf group from a Philippine resort in May 2001, along with Guillermo Sobero from California and Filipino resort guests and staffers. Some hostages escaped or were released; some were beheaded, including Sobero. The Burnhams, the Abus' "prized" hostages—one American is worth 10 Filipinos, the Abus have been quoted as saying—remained in the jungles as the United States stuck to its no-ransom, no-concession policy against hostage-takers.

Sept. 11 was either the best or worst day for the Burnhams. Pre-Sept. 11, they were at the mercy of the short-tempered Abus, the ill-trained Philippine military chasing them and a US no-ransom policy. Post-Sept. 11, the Abus were short-tempered, the Filipino troops still ill-trained and the US troops sent to Basilan were not there to rescue them but to train Philippine troops to fight a proxy war, specifically against the Abus, whose links to al-Qaida remain unproven. Unfortunately for the Burnhams, the targeted Abus were, literally, tied to their hands.

After months in captivity and countless rescue attempts, TV footage showed the Burnhams pleading for the military to stop—a reasonable request in a country where kidnappings go unreported for fear of a botched rescue. There was hope that ongoing back-channel negotiations, with the Burnhams' family reportedly paying a $300,000 ransom, would secure their release. But the deal between the evil Abus and the family of the Christian missionaries went nowhere.

Just when things couldn't get any more complicated, along came a classic Hollywood move. In the movie "Ransom," the character played by Mel Gibson offered the ransom money as a reward to anyone who could lead him to the kidnappers. US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone, who is not a Mel Gibson look-alike, announced a $5-million reward for information leading to the capture of the top five Abu leaders.

This led to some collective tsk-tsking in the Philippines. The United States was willing to spend that much money after all? Why didn't they do so earlier to save the Burnhams? Ah, we forgot. This war is against terrorism, not kidnapping, and the reward was aimed at getting the Abus, not the Burnhams. But there was general concession in a country where money talks—heck, sometimes it walks—that the Mel Gibson move was brilliant. Not that it worked. Not yet.

So it was back to training the Filipino troops, not unlike training a dog to fetch a stick, except this dog had really bad eyesight and was not very motivated to chase a stupid stick. It was discovered that some of the Filipino troops couldn't shoot straight because they needed eyeglasses. Imagine that. We equipped them with night-vision goggles (which impressed them no end), silencers, thermal imaging cameras and information from our spy drones.

Technically speaking, US troops were not engaging in combat, we kept telling Filipinos in the same morally upright tone that Clinton used in saying oral sex wasn't sex. The predominantly Catholic nation bought it, even as we were busy plotting Operation Daybreak to rescue the Burnhams.

On June 7, the dreaded encounter between the short-tempered Abus and the near-sighted Philippine troops happened in the worst possible conditions: deep in the jungle in a blinding tropical rain. The firefight killed hostages Martin Burnham and Edibora Yap and four Abu Sayyaf members, and wounded Gracia Burnham and seven soldiers. The rest of the Abus escaped.

Before the question could be asked, an answer was hastily offered: No American troops were involved in the operation. Yeah, right! We only called the shots from a joint headquarters, right? The dog we trained to fetch a stick broke a vase and brought us the wrong stick and we weren't involved? What are 1,000 of our troops doing in that country again? Studying the flora and fauna of the jungle? Our risk-averse troops pointed out the stick, trained the dog to go after it and, when the moment came, ordered it to "git 'em," as they say in Texas.

Let's be honest. Had all the hostages been rescued and the Abu Sayyaf decimated, we'd be high-fiving on CNN, not washing our hands of our involvement. We will parade the freed hostages as trophies in a war that badly needs victories. The rescue was not botched or bungled, we kept telling the Filipinos, who suffered the most casualties. In other words: goood dog!

Since the start of this kidnapping, 43 Filipino soldiers have been killed and hundreds wounded in rescue attempts. This number does not include the many civilians and hostages killed. The Abu Sayyaf's math turned out to be wrong. One American is worth far more than 10 Filipinos.

Now that the hostages are out of the way, the focus is on war-making. Uncle Sam's GI Jane, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a shrewd negotiator and master of quid pro quos, swiftly ordered her Rambo wannabes to: (1) make a shopping list of war materiel to ask for from the United States, and (2) search and destroy the Abus and finish the war.

Search and destroy? Yes. Finish? No. This war won't be finished until the poverty and hunger that drove the townsfolk to sympathize with, join or coddle the cash-rich Abus are eliminated.

In fact, pursuing military solutions to the largely social problems risks expanding the conflict from the ragtag band of Abus to the thousands-strong and more organized Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which for now has an uneasy truce with the government, and the equally strong Moro National Liberation Front.

It would be a grave mistake to risk uniting these forces. But the belligerent posturing of the now-motivated Philippine military might just do that.

This made-for-Hollywood saga was bad enough. Now they're planning a sequel?

*Eloisa F. Callender is a US-based Filipino writer. This article first appeared in The Capital Times in Madison, Wisconsin.*

# India at a time of upheaval

AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

I WAS just starting what looked like a daunting journey through Indian novelist Rohinton Mistry's "A Fine Balance," when an INQUIRER contributor called to ask me for recommendations for "rainy-day reading."

Well, I said, hoisting the hard-bound volume in one hand, the book I'm currently reading promises to keep one occupied even through a week's deluge. At 600-plus pages, "A Fine Balance" is certainly a challenging read, if only for the demands it makes on the reader's time. I borrowed the book from the British Centre and already I've had to renew it and now in fact it is already overdue. Which means the book has been in my possession for almost a month now.

Reading a "A Fine Balance," then is somewhat of an endurance test. Will the story manage to hold you to the very end, or will you tire of the intersecting stories of the four main characters long before you reach the last page?

Many times, I must confess, I felt tempted to give up and leave the two village tailors, their landlady and their friend, the college student, to their fate without knowing how their lives were woven into a whole. But such is Mistry's power as a narrator that he manages to keep one glued to the story, through the many secondary characters he introduces, and through the strands of recent Indian history that his characters stitch together with their lives.

How did two impoverished tailors, Ishvar Darji and his nephew Omprakash, venturing into the big city after they left their village to escape the wrath of the superior castes, meet up with Dina Dalal, the penurious Parsi widow, and her boarder Maneck Kohlah, a college student from the hill country? And how did their lives and those of their friends and acquaintances—from beggars to policemen, from a hair collector to Dina's businessman-brother—bend and twist to the exigencies of the "national emergency" that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed on India in the mid-'70s?

For a Filipino who lived through a similar period in our history at about the same time, the answers to the last question are of more than just passing interest. "A Fine Balance" has been described as a book that is "highly political" but at the same time "deeply personal." It shows the way for the writing of the story of a country at a time of upheaval not through the broad strokes of the historian, but through the fine sketches of the artist and observer.

* * *

**EVEN as he manages to lay bare the abuses and excesses of the authorities at the time of the national emergency, Mistry also brings to the reader's attention the many issues of politics, culture and religion that to this day threaten to tear India apart: the caste system (the two tailors are "untouchables" whose family defies tradition by training them for a trade other than their ordained one of cobblers), the power of the feudal lords, the abuse of religion and the manipulation of religious differences by venal politicians, corruption at all levels of governance, and an economic and cultural structure that keeps the poor always poor, battling for their place in the world in the same way they must fight for places on sidewalks and storefronts to earn the right to sleep.**

**Through Ishvar and Omprakash, Mistry also tells the world about what really happened during the national emergency. For instance, I'd heard about how the excesses of Gandhi's family planning program led to such popular discontent that it threatened to bring down her government. Just how excessive and abusive was this program is shown in distressing and horrifying detail toward the end of the book.**

**We may read of India's religious strife in headlines, but a book like this humanizes the conflict and shows how, at the level of the personal, individuals managed to rise above the political and social ferment to uphold a common humanity.**

**You don't have to be Indian to enjoy and be enriched by "A Fine Balance." But it certainly tells you more about this land of wealth and poverty, storied history and squalid reality, than newspapers, magazines or TV reports could ever convey.**

* * *

AFTER HIS paeans to his Jewish roots in "Schindler's List" and to his father's generation in "Saving Private Ryan," Steven Spielberg this time around attempts to probe the future in "Minority Report."

Set in the year 2054, "Minority Report" takes us to a future where there is virtually no murder or homicide because the police have found a way to prevent killings before they take place. Tom Cruise plays the chief of the "Pre-Crime" section, an "experimental" program in Washington, D.C. that is about to be implemented on a national scale. But things go awry when Cruise's character is identified as the perpetrator of one such pre-crime, shooting down a man he does not know.

"Pre-crime's" mechanisms are controlled by three "pre-cogs," a pair of male twins and a young woman who as children were discovered to have the gift of precognition, "dreaming" of killings before they occur. As the movie begins, law enforcement officials have perfected a system of harnessing the pre-cogs' visions and responding to the clues these visions provide as to the identity of the victim and perpetrator, and where it is to take place. So successful has "Pre-crime" been that in Washington, D.C., one of the most violent cities in the United States, murder and homicide rates have fallen to zero.

But now the head of "Pre-crime" itself has been implicated in a possible killing. Why would he do such a thing? And why would he shoot down someone he doesn't know?

"Minority Report" would seem to hold the potential of becoming another "Matrix" which blew away audiences with its edgy, artful creation of an alternative "present" and "future." And yet, despite Spielberg's considerable filmmaking skills, "Minority Report" is no "Matrix." In many ways, it is still conventional moviemaking, suffering, I believe, from an old fogey's compulsion to explain.

As a nearly-old fogey myself, I kinda like everything sewn up and tidy in the end, but if you're looking for cutting-edge entertainment, you'll have to look for the works of younger filmmakers. Still, "Minority Report" is a satisfying diversion, gripping and exciting and worth your money.

# A society of cults

PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

WHAT amazes us, modern city-dwellers, is why anyone in this day and age would want to join, and die for, anything like the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA). We take one look at its banefully unattractive leader, Ruben Ecleo Jr., and our amazement grows even more. For we have learned to expect that such groups should be led by individuals with a commanding presence, exuding magic, charisma and strength.

How do we explain the spell that the PBMA seems to have cast upon its members? We can be sure, first of all, that the PBMA works like a mutual benefit society, offering a broad range of assistance to the underprivileged and powerless. Beyond that, movements like this provide an experience of solidarity and strength to their members who feel excluded by modern society. Yet the PBMA claims to have members overseas, possibly OFWs working all over the world, and counts among them engineers and teachers who would hardly be regarded as marginalized. We believe that.

People join movements, cults and brotherhoods for various reasons. Many join as whole families, seeking protection and deliverance from a life of deprivation, while others are drawn into the organization after an experience of being healed by the benevolent leader. Through elaborate rituals, incantations and symbols, the group colonizes the entire being of the member and claims his exclusive loyalty even after he has attained a capacity for an autonomous life. The collective prayers and ceremonies maintain the form of the group and foster a sense of community and oneness with its "supreme leader" or "divine master."

The rationalizing influence of the modern school and the press has shrunk the ground in which cults usually thrive. But this has been an uneven process. In some instances, the mass media themselves have become unwitting purveyors of superstition. More important, pockets of millenarian thinking have persisted even in the most modern societies, providing solace and spiritual comfort to socially isolated individuals and families in a fast and uncertain world.

The will to believe and the will to belong are two powerful impulses that secular modernity has not been able to address completely. Scientific rationality has failed to provide satisfying answers to existential questions that have perplexed human beings. But neither have the major institutional religions adequately fulfilled the spiritual needs of their flocks. The result of this has been the proliferation, like lush tropical undergrowth, of cultist groups bound less by coherent beliefs than by mystical rituals and symbols signifying belongingness.

It is interesting that members of the Ecleo clan that founded and run the PBMA have occupied key positions in government and continue to wield considerable political influence. This makes them different from the usual cult leaders, who remain on the fringes of mainstream social life, and more like the feudal warlords that dominate provincial life in our society.

Valentin "Tatang" de los Santos, leader of the Lapiang Malaya, whose members were massacred by government troops in the streets of Manila in the 1960s, was a "primitive rebel" who was demanding the resignation of the country's president, Ferdinand Marcos. He was arrested, locked up and later murdered in the National Mental Hospital. Ruben Ecleo Jr., whose defiance resulted in the massacre of 16 PBMA members, was, in contrast, escorted by his mother, Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo, and was accompanied in his surrender by his political patron, Sen. Robert Barbers.

These are vastly different types. There is no record that the bolo-wielding Lapiang Malaya members ever allowed themselves to be used in any state-sponsored activity. Like the Katipunan before them, they too were fighting for a "New Jerusalem." That is why they fought the state.

In contrast, the gun-toting members of the PBMA had a complex relationship with the military, serving at various times as members of the state's anticommunist paramilitary units. Their leaders enriched themselves, joined mainstream political parties and ran for public office. They preyed upon ordinary people's will to believe, and took advantage of them in many ways.

The PBMA exemplifies the distasteful mix of grandiose concepts ("benevolent missionaries"), Latin-sounding gibberish, secret signs and passwords, rituals, syncretic beliefs, of guns and money, and powerlessness and patronage, that is so symptomatic of the sad state of our people's culture. By registering its name with the Securities and Exchange Commission, it sought to legitimize its dubious activities. By joining mainstream politics at the local level and courting the support of powerful politicians, it secured a level of untouchability so graphically portrayed by its surreal control of Dinagat Island.

It is local oligarchs like the Ecleos, national politicians like Barbers, and the lazy generals in our military that are holding back the full rationalization of our collective life. To dismiss the PBMA as nothing more than a bunch of misguided fanatics led by a mindless homicidal shabu addict is to miss the larger social context that breeds and perpetuates cults in our time. Far from being the remnants of an age long gone, groups like the PBMA are very much the living organs of a society that is underdeveloped, unequal, predatory and corrupt.

* * *

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# TALK of the TOWN

*Editor* **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

# Are you proud to be a Filipino?

THE FINDING of a nationwide survey conducted by the group of former UP president Jose Abueva that 82 percent of the respondents were proud to be a Filipino was not surprising.

Former Press Secretary Teodoro C. Benigno said the answers would have been different if the respondents were asked if they were proud of the nation's poverty, graft and corruption, crime and violence.

In the survey, respondents were asked "How proud are you to be a Filipino citizen?"

"Talk of the Town" conducted its own "survey" and asked people from different walks of life nationwide a variation of the question used by the UP group.

Respondents were asked, " The way things are going in the country, are you still proud to be a Filipino?" The majority of the respondents said they were still proud to be a Filipino. One thing stands out from the answers of the respondents. Many blame the squabbling political leaders and corruption for the sorry state of the country.

(Due to limited space, this section did not print the responses of all the respondents.)

## 'I feel a sense of hopelessness'

**Sheryl F. Cuales**
*5th year student*
*Mapua Institute of Technology*

SOMETIMES I don't admit it, but I know deep in my heart that it's the truth. When I was young I was really proud to be a Filipino. That was when I knew nothing about poor governance in our country.

Sometimes I ask myself: what if I am in another nation? What if the Philippines is just a state of a big and powerful country like America? Then maybe we would have a better life. One can tell that this won't happen. But I know that a part of me wants that to happen, maybe because of the hopelessness I am feeling right now due to the country's situation and the kind of government officials we have.

**Maring**
*Vegetable vendor*
*City of San Fernando, Pampanga*

I CAN'T say I'm proud. The cost of food is high. There's little income. Our national leaders are always fighting about power. They should concentrate on their work because we voted for them to help us.

## 'Common people are robbed daily'

**Alan P.-E. Tolentino**
*Economist*

I AM not proud to know that the ideals of the Philippine Revolution have been constantly betrayed by Filipino leaders.

I am not proud to know that Filipino leaders are collaborators of foreign colonizers in the oppression of the Filipino people. I am not proud to see Filipinos' democratic tradition and heritage prostituted to serve the selfish ends of a few traitors.

I am not proud to know that the common people are robbed every day of their natural rights and made squatters in their own land. I am ashamed to be called a Filipino among millions of jobless and desperate people deprived of their rights of access to their country's rich natural resources.

I spit on the faces of Filipino traitors who never cease to divide Filipinos among the filthy rich and filthy poor. I abhor the fossilized morality and temerity of the Filipino elite who rob, impoverish, and murder the least of our brethren and call such abominations progress and development.

I call on God to rain burning lava on the moral cretins posing as our moral guardians. I am proud to defy moral hypocrites and cheat legalized robbers of their immoral privileges.

I am proud to oppose, with all my strength and moral lights, the overpowering darkness of this benighted land. Like Lapu-Lapu and the pioneer Katipuneros, I am proud to be a free man, but not a Filipino.

**Simon Caday**
*Former college instructor taking doctoral studies at the Mariano Marcos State University, Laoag*

DURING the times I could get hold of a P500 bill, I would be reminded of what Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. said, that the Filipino is worth dying for. The bill always reminds me of the Filipinos' struggle against oppression, making me proud.

However, those thoughts haven't crossed my mind in decades. I have been out of a regular job and eventually lost access to the P500 bill. I began to ponder more on how to catch the elusive P500 bill for my family's needs and myself. That's about the same time when Aquino's convictions began to drift away.

Right now, I am more concerned about working to get the P500 bill rather than on what it says. Frankly, I don't have the luxury of time to ponder on whether I am still proud to be a Filipino. Maybe, when I can get hold of that bill again.

**Jose Cunanan**
*Chair of Aguman da reng Maldang Talapagobra queng Gabun, Pampanga*

I CAN'T feel even a little tinge of pride. Large tracts of agricultural and forest lands have either gone to foreign corporations and real estate developers and are used for American military exercises. Farmers are further driven to poverty because of landlessness, high cost of production, very low palay prices and little subsidies.

## 'Gov't is a source of embarrassment'

**Mayumi**
*Executive of a foreign bank*

AS LONG as clowns get elected into public office and the politics of patronage remains, the government will continue to be a major source of national embarrassment. What better way to crush one's pride in being Filipino than this?

Don't they realize that their incompetence will drive this country to the dogs? Or they plainly do not care because public office will allow them to stash away their ill-gotten wealth and buy properties abroad where they could live happily ever after? Then we, who have only this country, who have no properties and bank accounts abroad, will be left holding the empty bag when this country's economy collapses.

It is ordinary for a legitimate Filipino tourist to be treated as a pariah when entering a foreign country. I myself had a few experiences of being led away from the regular queue of arriving visitors going through immigration, or of being the reason for the inability of the tour group to proceed to its next destination simply because I carry a Philippine passport (immigration needs to verify the authenticity of my visa/travel document since Filipinos are notorious for being illegal immigrants).

I must admit that I would curse under the circumstances, but would be quick to rationalize that the compelling reason that drives Filipinos to migrate illegally is economic upliftment, if not survival. It is different, though, if one is confronted with negative, but nevertheless truthful remarks from even the most ordinary people abroad about the clowns getting elected into office. Even the most inept, incompetent, and unqualified nincompoops get elected into office! National pride? Say that again, please?

**Karina Herrera**
*Sales manager*
*Los Baños, Laguna*

THE GOVERNMENT'S inability to stop corruption and population explosion and our culture give me a reason to say I'm no longer proud to be a Filipino.

Most Filipinos put all the responsibility of improving their living standards in the hands of the government. Some don't exert effort to help themselves. They keep on giving birth when they already know that they cannot afford to give their children a decent life.

**Edgardo Enriquez,**
*Tricycle driver*
*Lucena*

IF the country continues to be run like it is now by the government, life will remain hard. I will most likely stay a tricycle driver until I die. That's because our politicians are corrupt.

## 'Other countries don't have malunggay'

**Dominador Rubia,**
*Tailor, Dumaguete*

I HAVE no wish to become a citizen of any other country. While times are tough, we have complete freedom in the Philippines to do whatever we want. In advanced countries like America, people have to stick to a rigid schedule just to keep their jobs. Here, we can be flexible, working on one thing at one time and on another the next time. I also love the Philippines because we have *malunggay*. That is what they don't have in other countries.

**Augusta Balanoy**
*Member of the Ibaloi tribe*
*La Trinidad, Benguet*

"I AM still proud to be a Filipino and being a member of the (indigenous group) Ibaloi. It's my life and I couldn't imagine myself belonging to another race. If one denies his being a Filipino because of the problems of the country, he refuses to be part of the solution to these problems that may turn the hard-won battle of our ancestors useless.

These problems are not new. It has been with us for so long. They are re-created by different people at different times. With all these problems, unity is very important. Certainly, I am not happy with what's going on because every failed decision of our leaders affects ordinary Filipinos.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ
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**Empong Migabok**
*Lumad activist*
*Davao del Sur*

"THERE'S nothing to be ashamed of because what's happening in the country also happens in other parts of the world. There may be kidnappings in Basilan and Sulu, but it's not worse than elsewhere. If bombs are exploding in Mindanao, so are people being blown away in Israel, in Northern Ireland and even in America.

If our politicians are squabbling and making a mockery of our people, Taiwanese legislators are pelting each other with tomatoes. Being proud of one's nationality does not have a connection with bad things happening in his country.

**Annabelle Dilag**
*Jobseeker, Marikina*

NOT much anymore. Just look at the bungling police force and military. Sometimes I no longer want to be a Filipino, especially when I see on TV the follies of people, and the plight of our country among other things.

**Voltaire Arzadon**
*Computronix College president*
*Dagupan*

I AM trying to be proud as a Filipino. At the moment there are many downsides to being one. Our country is beset with many problems. Our economy is down. Many political leaders are bungling their jobs because they know that if they have the money, they will still get elected anyway.

The difficulties are mostly brought about by lack of sincerity by our political leaders. But I am not losing hope. There are good leaders out there whose main concern is to lead the country to peace and prosperity. We, Filipinos, have inherent traits that we should be proud of, like being resilient, that enabled us to triumph over the many challenges. We survive despite the difficulties, and we can laugh even during difficult times.

## 'We can smile despite the crisis'

**Rowena Galicia**
*Housewife, San Pablo City*

BAYANIHAN, our ability to smile despite the crisis and to view events in a positive way make me proud to be a Filipino. Although I cannot deny that there are some Filipinos who become a problem instead of a solution. The majority of us still care for the country's welfare. We became one and joined movements for the benefit of the many (like what we did on Edsa). My love for my country does not diminish as I welcome the presence of US forces in the country. Admission of weaknesses does not mean that I'm giving up my country and nationalism.

**Gretchen Valdez**
*Secretary general, Anakbayan*
*Cagayan Valley, Santiago City*

I AM proud to be a Filipino because a true Filipino defends Philippine sovereignty. I will always fight for my countrymen and my country. I love to hate the government because I am a true Filipino. Fighting for our rights means driving American troops out of the country.

**Jay Erastain**
*Bookkeeper, Calauan, Laguna*

I'M still very proud to be a Filipino because of our ingenuity to think of ways and means to earn a living. Our ability to extract cash out of trash, to reinvent waste products into a by-product. What irritates me, though, is the way Filipinos vote for leaders who aggravate the already rotten government system.

## 'We staged a peaceful revolution'

**Leticia Aquino**
*Law professor, Tuguegarao*

I AM proud to be free, proud to be brown, proud to excel in whatever field I may find myself in. I am proud to be a Filipino because it is my country that taught the world how to stage a bloodless revolution. It is my country where workers are praised all over the globe for their industry and patience. From my land comes brilliant minds applying their geniuses in their respective endeavors to improve the living conditions of the people.

**Crispulo de la Cruz**
*Farmer, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija*

IN A SENSE, I am proud because the Department of Agrarian Reform is helping me own a piece of land. But I can only be truly proud of being a Filipino if the government tries very hard to help us farmers overcome poverty. For us, every day is a bout with hunger. I was not able to send any of my six children to high school.

**Juliana Balanag**
*Street vendor, Baguio*

I DON'T know why anyone would relinquish his Filipino citizenship if he starts feeling very hungry. These days, everyone is hungry. But that is what the Filipino's real identity is all about. We always manage to survive our crises. I have three children, and they all grew up well. They have families of their own, and I taught all of them to realize the fact that they survived because they are Filipinos.

## 'Our sense of spirituality should inspire us'

**Jesette Christine David**
*Biology teacher, Urios College*
*Butuan*

WHAT is happening to our country has nothing to do with our being Filipino. Our profound sense of spirituality and belief in God as a predominantly Christian nation should inspire us to face the challenges. A Filipino is a fighter.

**Melba Brutas**
*Fruit vendor in Tacloban*

I KNOW we can weather all the difficulties that we are facing right now. Filipinos are strong. But still, I appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to do her best so that these problems will be solved.

**Joergie Loredo**
*Security guard, Iloilo City*

THIS is where I live and where I was born. It's only natural that we have many problems but this does not make us less proud of who we are.

**Ana Abaya**
*Banker, Bacolod*

THE STATE of the country is not the fault of our being Filipino. It is the way politicians and unscrupulous people run the country. The country is like this because of our lack of support for our culture. That's why we develop bad habits and are easily corrupted.

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*( Interviews by Estanislao Caldez, Villamor Visaya Jr., Cristina Arzadon, Yolanda Fuertes, Jovelyn Reyes, Desiree Caluza and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; PDI Southern Luzon and Visayas Bureaus; Allan Nawal, Franklin Caliguid and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and, Chona Galang, Ray Leyesa and Michael Cucio, PDI Research ).*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Israeli tanks kill 4 'by mistake'

PALESTINIAN children look out of their house window after Israeli army imposed a curfew in Bettunia near the West Bank City of Ramallah June 21. REUTERS

**JENIN, West Bank—Five Palestinians, including four children, were killed Friday in Jenin, as the Israeli army admitted its tanks opened fire by mistake.**

Violence was sweeping the occupied territories, with four Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip and the army pouring into Nablus, hours after a gunman killed five Israelis, including a mother and three of her children, in a nearby West Bank settlement.

Jewish settlers also shot dead a Palestinian man to avenge the deaths of the five settlers killed the previous day near Nablus, Palestinian medical sources said.

Tensions were high in Jenin, the site of some of the heaviest fighting in the 21-month-long intifada, where Israeli tanks shelled a market where people believed a curfew had been lifted.

Some shells struck about a kilometer to the north, killing four people in the Hayal-Basatin neighborhood, medical sources said.

The army later said it had killed by mistake three Palestinians in Jenin, as opposed to four.

"An initial inquiry indicates that the (Israeli) force erred in its action," an army statement said.

The army said in a statement it had opened fire on a group of people who "broke the curfew" on the city of Jenin, where soldiers were carrying out "house to house searches in search of an explosive lab."

It vowed an investigation.

However, medical sources said soldiers had fired randomly.

A six-year-old girl, Sajida Fahmawi, and a 50-year-old man, Hilal Shita, were the first to be struck down by the tank shells, the medical sources said.

Minutes later, six-year-old Ahmed Ghazawi and his brother, Jamil Ghazawi, 12, were killed when an Israeli tank shell burst in the same area, they said.

About 23 Palestinians were wounded in the clashes, with one man listed in serious condition, the medical sources said.

The fighting erupted after the army briefly lifted a curfew on the town, which it had occupied Wednesday following a suicide bombing aboard a bus in Jerusalem that killed 19 Israelis. *AFP*

## Bush backs Israeli retaliations

ORLANDO, Florida—US President George W. Bush Friday backed Israel's retaliation for a series of Palestinian attacks he called "outrageous", saying the US ally has "the right to defend herself."

Meanwhile, a senior US official said disagreements remained among top Bush aides over the details of a new Middle East peace plan he was meant to unveil in an eagerly awaited—but as yet unscheduled—speech.

"I wouldn't describe it as hot and heavy, but there is a robust exchange going on within the administration," said the official, who requested anonymity.

"I'll give the speech when I'm ready," said Bush, who was expected to push for a Palestinian state with temporary borders coupled with sweeping Palestinian political and security reforms meant to enhance Israel's security.

A second official, who also declined to be named, said the main points of contention included determining such a state's borders; what rights it would have, such as sovereignty and a UN seat; what to demand from the Palestinians in terms of reforms; and what Israeli concessions it would require on issues like settlements and military incursions.

Top Bush foreign policy advisers "are still working on this. It's still not all settled," the first official said.

Aides ruled out Bush giving the speech over the weekend and have even suggested he may wait until after next week's Group of Eight summit in Canada for the address, which the president put off in the face of renewed violence.

In the past 72 hours, three Palestinian attacks—two suicide bombings and a raid Thursday on a Jewish settlement in the West Bank—have killed more than 30 Israelis and 17 Palestinians. *AFP*

## 7 hurt in ETA car bomb blasts

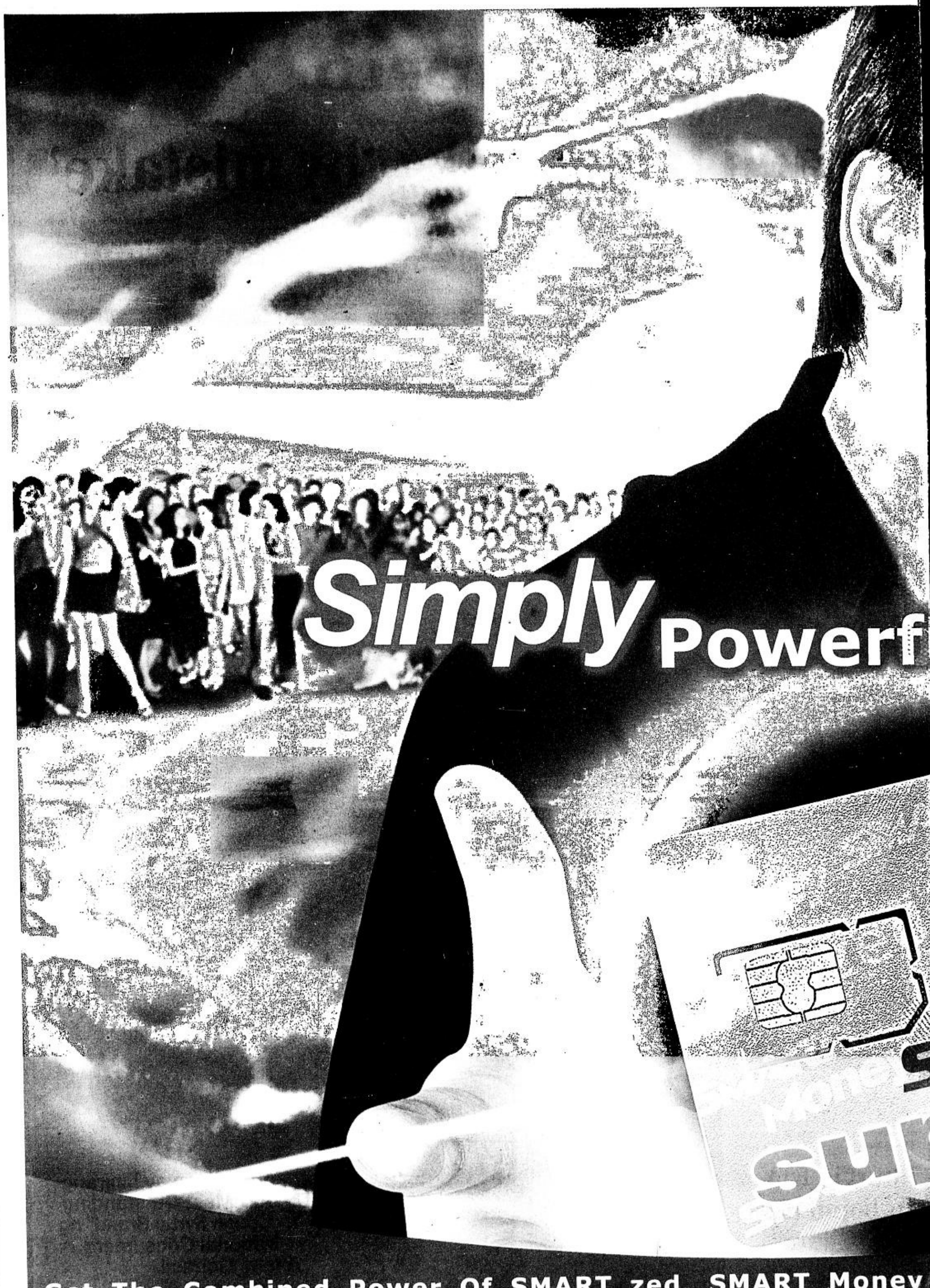
MARBELLA, Spain—A series of car bombs exploded in beach resorts on Spain's Costa del Sol and in a northern city on Friday, seriously injuring a British tourist and hurting six other people in attacks timed to coincide with a EU summit and claimed by the underground Basque group ETA, police said.

The first bomb, in the resort town of Fuengirola, critically injured the 33-year-old British tourist, who was hit by flying metal and later underwent surgery for injuries to his lungs, abdomen and pelvis, a spokesman for Marbella hospital said.

Five other people—a Spanish couple, two British youngsters and a Moroccan youngster—received injuries from shattering glass when the bomb exploded at 7:05 a.m. in the car park of the Las Piramides hotel near the beach in Fuengirola, damaging the ground floor of the building.

The Spanish couple, in their forties, were taken to hospital suffering fractures and cuts while the others were treated by emergency services at the scene. The Briton, who was not named, was later said to be in stable condition.

The attack was followed six hours later by a second bomb in a downtown street of Marbella, the Spanish coast's most luxurious beach resort, only 27 km away. *AFP*

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# FBI warns of new attacks with fuel tanker trucks

WASHINGTON—US authorities warned Friday that terrorists could launch a fuel tanker attack on US interests at home and abroad, notably Jewish targets, and may also be planning an Independence Day attack on Las Vegas.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents have "received uncorroborated information that terrorists may be interested in using fuel tanker trucks for attacks against US interests in the United States or overseas, notably against Jewish schools and synagogues," said FBI spokesman Paul Bresson.

Another spokesman, Bill Carter, said the bureau continues "to receive information from detainees and other sources about possible terrorist activities."

Most of the information is uncorroborated or unconfirmed, Carter warned, "but out of an abundance of caution, we provide this information to law enforcement agencies."

A fuel truck was used April 11, to carry out an attack outside a Tunisian synagogue, killing 19 people, including 14 German tourists, on the resort island of Djerba.

The FBI is also taking seriously warnings that terrorists are planning an attack on Las Vegas, Nevada for the July 4 Independence Day holiday, after a man said he intercepted a cell phone conversation in Arabic last week in which such an attack was discussed.

More than half the US public also believe an attack could occur on Independence Day, according to a Time magazine/CNN poll released Friday.

Of 57 percent of people surveyed who believed an attack was a decided possibility, 13 percent said they thought an attack was very likely compared with 44 percent who said it would be somewhat like, according to the poll.

Seventy-one percent of Americans also said the creation of a cabinet-level security department would make the United States more secure from terrorist attacks, while 24 percent said it would not.

Fears persisted that an attack was possible, as a Las Vegas resident, Lebanese-American Michael Hamdan, dialing his home number on his cell phone from his car Saturday, to let his wife know he was on his way, accidentally overheard the conversation.

"I dialed the number and I pressed 'send.' It seemed that the call did not get through. So I was going to hang up when I heard somebody talking in Arabic," Hamdan told CNN. "It seems another line crossed my line."

Hamdan, who was born in Lebanon and speaks Arabic, said the conversation was among a group of men.

He said an anonymous voice declared: "We are here in the city of corruption, the city of prostitution and gambling, the city of the unbelievers, and they are talking about freedom. We are going to hit them on the day of freedom."

"We're taking that seriously. We have opened up an investigation," Jule Miller, a spokeswoman for the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, said.

Media reported this week that New York's police and fire departments were on heightened alert after receiving warnings that terrorists might use emergency services vehicles as bombs, after two "Middle Eastern" men tried to buy an ambulance with cash.

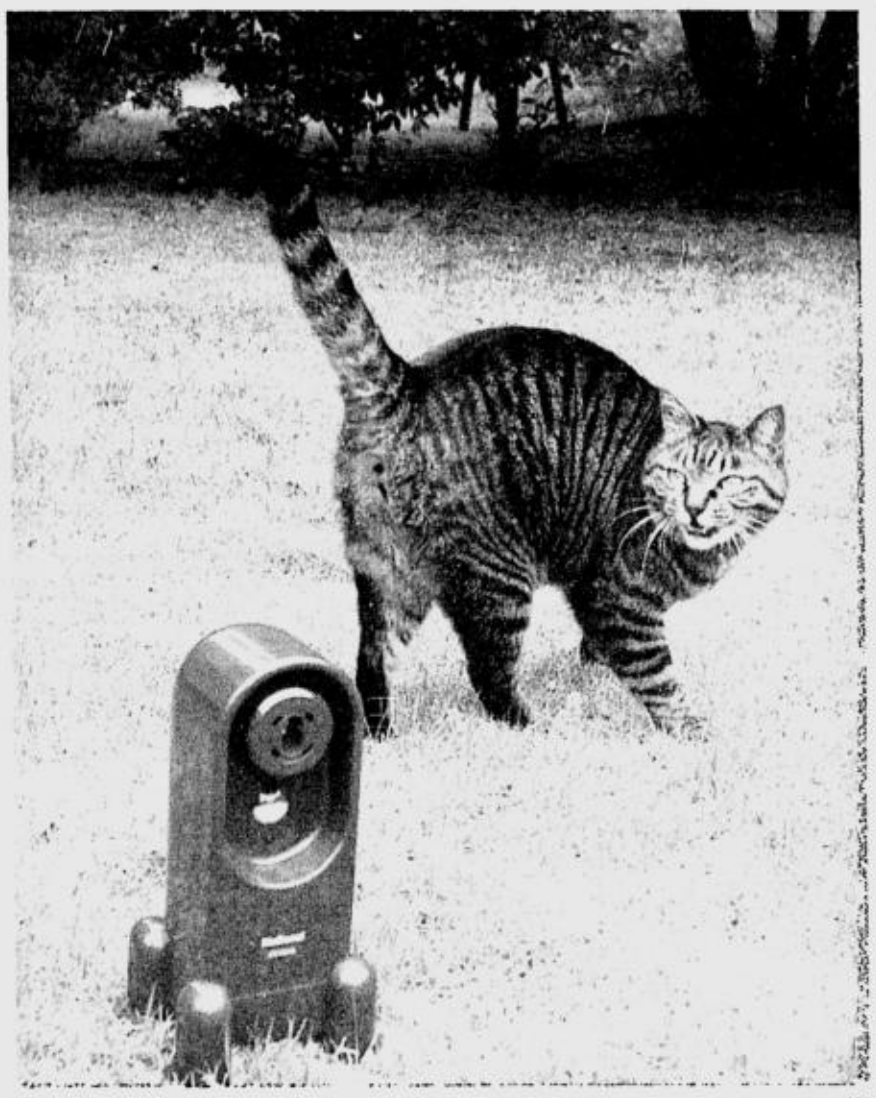
Citing law enforcement sources, the New York Daily News reported Thursday the two men had tried to purchase the vehicle earlier this month at a New Jersey outlet specializing in replica ambulances and police cars.

When they tried to pay in cash, the owner became suspicious and the two men finally left without leaving identification.

The owner alerted the authorities, who in turn warned city law enforcement officials, the newspaper said.

The possibility of terrorists procuring or hijacking emergency services vehicles raises the prospect of car bombs with almost unlimited access to sensitive areas.

Rumors have also been circulating in Washington about a possible attack on the city's subway system, which is used by thousands of tourists who come to the US capital each year to enjoy fireworks and other Independence Day festivities. *AFP*



**SHOO, CAT** AFP

**A cat reacts angrily to the new type of cat-repellent machine "Nekochan-shinaide" ("Kitties, don't drop"), produced by Japan's Matsushita Electric Works, at a backyard in Tokyo June 21. The device, priced at 11,200 yen ($90) drives away cats with supersonic waves hardly audible to humans to protect gardens from cat droppings.**

# South Korea president shamed by sons' arrests

SEOUL—President Kim Dae-Jung of South Korea bowed his head in shame Friday after a second of his sons was arrested and jailed to await trial on corruption charges.

"Over the past few months, I have felt thoroughly responsible for not taking proper care of my sons," the 76-year-old leader said in a live televised speech.

"I have lived in shame and apologize for hurting the hearts of people who supported me. Again, I express my apology."

The president lowered his head in contrition before reading the statement of apology that shocked South Korean political parties.

He vowed his sons would not receive preferential treatment. "My sons will be sternly punished under the law," he said.

His second son Kim Hong-Up, 53, was formally arrested hours earlier on charges of taking 2.28 billion won ($1.85 million) from businessmen in return for influence-peddling.

The court ordered his detention with judges saying they feared evidence would be destroyed if he stayed at liberty.

Third son Kim Hong-Gul, 38, was detained on graft and tax evasion charges last month. His trial is scheduled to start on June 28.

The scandals have badly tarnished the image of President Kim, who took office in early 1998 on a pledge to fight graft.

The snowballing graft scandals hit not only the first family but also the head of Posco, the world's biggest steel maker in South Korea.

Prosecutors again summoned Posco chairman Yoo Sang-Boo, 60, on Friday for questioning over his links to the corruption scandal involving Kim Hong-Gul. *AFP*

**SOUTH Korean President Kim Dae-Jung apologizing to the nation on Friday just minutes after his second son, Kim Hong-Up, was arrested over an influence-peddling scandal.** REUTERS

# India-Pakistan war was 'very close'—Musharraf

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Pakistan and India recently came "very close" to full-scale war over disputed Kashmir, and that while the immediate threat had eased, tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals remain "explosive."

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. aired Saturday, Musharraf said Pakistan would not begin winding down its forces' readiness to fight and that he didn't care whether or not India began de-escalating its military buildup.

"We came very close," Musharraf told the BBC when asked how near India and Pakistan were to all-out war during the South Asian countries' most recent standoff over Kashmir.

"When the Indians moved their forces forward, army and air forces, that became very dangerous and that situation still remains," he said.

The two rivals went to the brink of war following a December attack on the Indian parliament by what the Indians said were Pakistani-supported Islamic extremists fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, a Himalayan province both countries claim as their own.

India moved hundreds of thousands of troops to the Pakistani border, prompting Pakistan to respond with its own troop buildup in the biggest mobilization on the subcontinent since 1971. About 1 million troops remain massed on the Line of Control separating the two countries in Kashmir.

The threat of war subsided after high-profile diplomatic missions by the United States, Britain and other countries. New Delhi lifted a ban on Pakistani planes flying in Indian air space and said it would pull back warships from close to Pakistani waters. Islamabad promised to stop insurgents from crossing into Indian-controlled Kashmir to stage attacks.

In the interview, Musharraf said tensions between Pakistan and India had eased somewhat since the height of the crisis, but noted that they could quickly build again if there was another terrorist attack in Kashmir or India. *AP*

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# Iran quake kills 500

TEHRAN, Iran—A strong earthquake rocked northwestern Iran on Saturday and killed at least 500 people and injured around 1,600, Iran's state-run media reported.

Most of the deaths occurred in the town of Bou'in-Zahra in Qazvin province, the epicenter of the 6.0 magnitude quake, 225 km (140 miles) west of Tehran, Majid Shalviri, the head of the provincial Red Crescent Society, was quoted as saying by the official news agency.

State-run radio reported 500 people were killed and 1,600 injured.

The 7:30 a.m. (11 a.m. in Manila) quake was also felt in the capital Tehran. The quake hit the northern, central and western provinces of Gilan, Tehran, Kurdestan, Qazvin, Zanjan and Hamedan and was succeded by several aftershocks, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency.

"In the village of Kisse-Jin only, 80 people have been killed," Shalviri, of the Red Crescent Society, said.

Mohammad Hossein Parvinian, deputy governor of Qazvin province, told IRNA that 10 villages were damaged "between 50-90 percent and rescue teams have been sent to the region." The villages are near the towns of Bou'in-Zahra and Avaj in Qazvin province, he said. Bou'in-Zahra is 60 km southwest of Qazvin, the provincial capital.

In 1963, a deadly earthquake hit the same area, killing 12,225 people and demolishing 124 villages in one of Iran's most devastating natural disasters. *AP*

**DOWN UNDER, IT'S THE SHORTEST DAY** AFP

**Busker Ivan (The Fan Man) Medel performs for money from passersby on the foreshores of Sydney Harbor June 22, during the shortest day of the year. Sydneysiders continue to bask in the mild southern winter, with temperatures hovering around 18 degrees Celsius.**

# Mexican families seek lost kin

MEXICO CITY—Nearly 35 years ago, Aleida Gallangos' father was jailed for two months at a Mexico City prison for his political activities and communist ties, before he disappeared for good when she was 2 years old.

On Friday, Gallangos, now 28, went to that penitentiary—now reborn as the National Archive—to search for clues to his fate and those of her mother, brother and uncle, all of whom disappeared in the 1970s.

Gallangos was among the first Mexicans to dig into federal files opened to public scrutiny under a landmark public information law passed earlier this year.

"We're looking for information that tells us what they did with my parents," she said.

Gallangos said she had found files referring to her father but nothing yet on her mother or other family members.

Fulfilling a campaign promise to make Mexico a more just society, President Vicente Fox on Tuesday formally opened millions of once secret security files that are expected to shed light on past atrocities, including a 1968 student massacre and the "dirty war" against leftists in the 1970s when hundreds of people disappeared.

By Wednesday victims and their families, investigators and members of the media began showing up at Mexico City's Palacio Lecumberri to search thousands of documents filed by subject and date in converted prison cells at the National Archive.

Among them was Rodrigo Gonzalez, who works at the National Archive and identifies himself as a former guerrilla.

"I'm looking for files on myself," he said.

The newly opened files date from about 1950 to 1985 and could help reveal who ordered and who carried out human rights abuses under the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and bring those people to trial. *Reuters*

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## *POEA cracks down on immigration agencies*

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) has started a crackdown on immigration consultancy firms conducting seminars among the hotels in the city following complaints that they are into recruitment of jobseekers for the United States and Canada.

Francisco Domingo, Southern Mindanao POEA chief, said applicants are being asked to shell out as much as $2000 during the seminars in exchange for placements.

But Domingo admitted that it might be difficult to prosecute those running the consultancy firms because of the different laws adopted by the country, the USA and Canada.

"There is a very thin line between recruitment for immigration and recruitment for employment," he said.

Domingo said that although some of the applicants found employment abroad after about a year, some have been left behind even after paying the required processing fee.

He said that in running after these consultancy firms, POEA would be banking on the recent "opinion" of the Department of Justice about the illegality of the act of canvassing, enlisting, contracting or procuring workers including referrals, contract services, promising, and advertising for employment locally or abroad.

The DOJ's opinion was based on Republic Act 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995.

In his letter to the POEA, Chief state prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said that persons attracting applicants by misrepresenting themselves or by using false promises fell within the definition of illegal recruiters.

"We will create a task force and we will run after these people," Domingo said. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

## GROWTH AREA

# GMA revives North Quad

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**SAN FERNANDO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo "does not believe" in the effectiveness of special committees or commissions under the Office of the President but during her visit here on Friday, she made an exception.**

During the closed-door meeting with the regional development and peace and order councils (RDC-RPOC) at the provincial capitol here, the President announced that she was approving the revival of the North Luzon Growth Area (NLGA) Commission.

The NLGAC, more popularly known by its former name North Quad, was a flagship project of former President Fidel Ramos and its mandate was to promote the Ilocos, Cordillera and Cagayan Valley as a single development region to potential investors from south China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan.

Earlier, the President issued an executive order dissolving all 38 commissions under her office. Consequently, she appointed NLGAC Executive Director Hermenegildo Dumlao as deputy director general of the Philippine Information Agency under the Office of the Press Secretary on May 14, "the first time the PIA had such a position," an INQUIRER source said.

In a dialogue with reporters at the former Wallace Air Station at Poro Point, Ms Macapagal admitted that her decision to revive the NLGAC was based on an earlier endorsement by the RDC, strengthened by the urging of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Singson received the President after the RDC-RPOC meeting at Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur, where she distributed several land titles and checks to farmers and other beneficiaries of government assistance.

*"Baka magtampo si* Chavit (Chavit might get hurt)," the President told reporters even as she stressed that she "did not believe in (such) committees and would rather give the funds to the local governments concerned."

To date, Ms Macapagal said only two of the original 38 commissions have been retained—the NLGC and the Socsargen Commission, which is credited for the much lauded multilateral economic cooperation called the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

With the retention of the NLGC, the President said she will reinstate Dumlao as its executive director since "no public official should hold two positions concurrently."

But insiders say that after nearly eight years in operation, the NLGAC is not even anywhere near what the BIMP-EAGA has achieved for Mindanao and the country, or for that matter, what parallel special commissions have accomplished.

With the exception of the power plant in Sual, Pangasinan, and the Proton Pilipinas Corp. car parts manufacturing plant, which has shut down, in Mabini, also in Pangasinan, there have been no new major investments to realize the growth area's master plan, the NLGAC staff said.

Recently, the NLGAC has shifted its efforts to manpower pooling to supply the labor needs of the information technology industry.

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## 5 die in clash between rebels and militiamen in Davao City

DAVAO CITY–Five persons were killed after militiamen clashed with New People's Army rebels in Marilog District here on Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Eduardo del Rosario, commander of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion, said three members of the Civilian Volunteers Organization and two rebels died in an encounter in Sitio Turuyan in Barangay Tamugan.

Del Rosario identified the slain militiamen as Mario Gulig, Roger Isdang and Lorenzo Silay, all residents of Sitio Bitug in Barangay Malabog, Paquibato District.

He said the slain rebels have yet to be identified.

Del Rosario said the government men also recovered three M16-Armalite rifles belonging to the rebels.

The clash started at around 10:30 a.m., when a band of militiamen on combat patrol chanced upon about 15 rebels led by Manuel Roxas alias Kumander Pipoy.

Del Rosario said it was the same group that figured in an earlier fight with the military in Barangay Tamugan. At least six suspected rebels were killed in that clash.

In another development in Naga City, the NPA unit operating in Goa town has claimed responsibility for the death of the former Goa mayor and his aide who were shot dead by two jeepney-loads of guerrilla fighters on May 28 in Goa.

In a letter sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, the NPA said former Goa Mayor Leoncio Gan and his aide Catalino Saladino were killed because of their alleged "crime against the people and the revolutionary movement."

The rebels claimed Gan and Saladino were "ambushed" because they founded an anti-communist paramilitary group named Kalasag, which they claimed had terrorized the people and been used to fight the communist rebels.

The NPA further accused the victims of masterminding the death of a certain Elpidio Obias and two members of the Florentino family.

The rebels also accused Gan of organizing a terror gang called Palas.

The rebels described Gan as a despotic landlord who abused his farmer-tenants, collected exploitative land rent from them and grabbed lands from farmers. ***Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

## 3,000 US, RP troops to train in Subic

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A bigger military exercise involving 3,000 Philippine and United States troops is scheduled to start next month in Subic, Zambales, the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement said Tuesday.

For this bilateral training, dubbed Cooperation Afloat Readiness Training (Carat-02), at least 1,568 servicemen from the US Navy and Marine Corps and 1,257 soldiers from the Philippine Navy and Marines are participating, the commission said.

The 10-day exercise, which will be held mainly in Subic, will start on July 17.

Ambassador Jaime Yambao, VFACOM executive director, said five major warships are docking at the Subic Bay freeport zone's piers for the duration of the training. These are the USS Vincenz, George Philip, Anchorage, Safeguard and US CG Margantheu.

He said these ships would also take part in amphibious landings and sea exercises in Sangley and Ternate in Cavite.

The number of participants from the Philippines and US has increased by about 15 percent owing to closer military relations between the two countries, Yambao said.

Carat-02 is the second biggest exercise held this year under the VFA, an agreement that is now on its third year since the Philippine Senate ratified it in 1999.

The training comes at a time when the Philippine and US governments are discussing the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement.

Militant groups had opposed the proposed agreement on the suspicion that it would reestablish permanent US bases in the country.

But Philippine defense officials said there is nothing in the proposed draft that would assure basing arrangement.

Yambao said Carat-01 was long scheduled and was in accord with the Mutual Defense Treaty, which is now on its 51st year.

For public safety, Yambao said fishing communities near Subic, Sangley and Ternate have been advised about the exercise's activities. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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# House probe on rice switching urged

TACLOBAN CITY—Two Eastern Visayas solons want the House of Representatives to also look into the switching of some 1,800 bags of smuggled rice with sawdust.

Leyte Rep. Ted Failon of the first district said he and Leyte Rep. Carmen Cari of the fifth district will file a resolution, asking the House committee on good government to conduct a probe on the rice switching case in aid of legislation.

Failon said the inquiry would try to identify and punish the culprits and establish a possible legislation to deter the commission of the same crime in the future.

Last June 14, a group composed of auditors and personnel of the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Bureau of Customs (BoC) confirmed during an inspection that about 1,800 bags deposited in the NFA warehouse in Alangalang town contained sawdust instead of rice.

The BoC personnel on May 30 delivered the bags to the NFA warehouse for safekeeping. These were part of some 9,000 bags of seized alleged smuggled rice in Hindang town, Leyte.

The about 1,800 bags were first deposited to a private warehouse in Hindang before they were transferred to the NFA warehouse in Alangalang.

But reports said two of the four trucks delivering the bags of rice to the Alangalang warehouse reached the town on May 31.

The two other trucks, which took another route, was flagged down in Ormoc City allegedly by a BoC official on the night of May 30. The following day, the group proceeded to Alangalang but already in four trucks.

At the NFA warehouse, it was later discovered that a total of 1,796 bags that were delivered on May 30 and May 31 contained sawdust instead of rice. Only 899 bags were found to be filled with rice.

The National Bureau of Investigation said the heist was well planned and was committed by several people, including those in government.

Lawyer Salvador Ranin, NBI director for Eastern Visayas, said the focus of the NBI investigation was to uncover the people who conspired to switch the rice with sawdust.

He said some BoC and NFA personnel might be involved in the case. He did not name names.

Ranin said the NBI investigation was still ongoing but the truck drivers and some military personnel who escorted the delivery were not available when asked to come to the NBI to answer some questions.

He added they were also checking on the source of the sawdust. "The sawdust did not come from wood but coco lumber. There is no sawmill in Leyte so the culprits would have difficulty getting the sawdust," he said in Pilipino. ***Joey A. Gabieta and Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau***

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas ang Mindanao including Palawan wil experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. source: **pagasa**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Partly Cloudy | Hi34° Lo25° |
| **Baguio** | Partly Cloudy | Hi24° Lo17° |
| **Tuguegarao** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 36° Lo 24° |
| **Laoag** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 34° Lo 24° |
| **Clark Zone** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 24° |
| **Tagaytay** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 22° |
| **Legazpi** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 25° |
| **Calapan** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 23° |
| **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 25° |
| **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 25° |
| **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 26° |
| **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 33° Lo 25° |
| **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 25° |
| **Zamboanga** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 25° |
| **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 24° |
| **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 24° |

Compiled by: Armin Adina, PDI Research/06/23/02

# PPA says delays cost Batangas port P117M

BATANGAS CITY—The residents' resistance to the second phase of the Batangas Port Development Project has delayed the project and cost it some P117.1 million as of May 31, according to the Philippine Ports Authority here.

Edgar Pilar, manager of the Philippine Ports Authority in Batangas, said Phase 2 of the Batangas port will be expanded to Purok Uno and Sta. Clara Ilaya area, thus the need to dismantle the residents' shanties and their consequent relocation.

The PPA has been allotted P7.4 million for the entire dismantling operation and 500 trucks of filling materials to improve the Puyo property where the residents will be relocated.

But the opposition of the residents had prevented the PPA from pushing through with the project.

The construction firms Shimizu and F. F. Cruz, contracted by the PPA since March, have been in the area for three months now, costing the government millions of pesos every day since the project has been kept at bay.

Last Thursday, about 200 policemen came to dismantle the residents' houses. It was not the first time that residents were evicted from the area.

In the 1990s, hundreds of families were relocated to barangays Sico and Balete, while many were left behind to fight for a better relocation area.

Those left behind through the leadership of barangay chair Thelma Maranan have purchased the Puyo property also in Sta. Clara using the P35,000 compensation they got from the Batangas port development project's Phase 1 in 1994.

When the relocatees from Sico and Balete heard that the second phase of the project would push through, they allegedly sold their houses and lots and returned as squatters to Purok Uno of Sta. Clara where the second phase was about to be constructed.

A series of negotiations followed between the PPA and the barangay residents headed by Sta. Clara chair Thelma Maranan.

Maranan demanded that the PPA give them a lifetime livelihood and residential security.

She also demanded that the PPA give the residents the control of the port's domestic operation.

But Pilar said this is not possible since the PPA mandates that the operation should go through bidding first. ***Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

TOOTS SOBERANO

**SPECIAL OCCASION**
**These Ifugao men listen to President Macapagal-Arroyo during her visit to their province last week.**

# 160 seminarians fast, pray for priests

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Some 160 seminarians at St. Vincent Ferer Seminary of the Jaro Archdiocese went fasting and praying on Friday for the forgiveness of sins of the priests.

Some seminarians did not take three full meals while others took their only meal at sundown, said seminary rector Fr. Emmanuel Trance. Joining the students were eight priests and 10 lay teachers.

"It is a day to ask forgiveness for our weaknesses, and to pray that we remain faithful to our vocation," said Trance.

The fasting was in answer to the call of Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo to some 150 priests and the faithful on June 8 to declare a day of prayer and fasting for the intention of "sanctifying the clergy."

The call was made amid allegations raised against a parish priest in Tigbauan town, 22 kilometers from here.

Some parishioners of San Juan de Sahagun in Tigbauan accused Fr. Eleuterio Carton of molesting a 17-year-old boy in 1996, corruption, mismanagement and politicking, among others.

A committee under Presbyteral Council of the Jaro Archdiocese was convened on June 7, to look into the accusations against Carton. Msgr. Jose Gamboa, the Archdiocese vicar general, headed the committee.

An affidavit of a 23-year-old Army soldier alleged that he was sexually harassed by Carton when he was 17. But Carton denied knowing the soldier.

But the soldier's mother also issued an affidavit to support his accusations against the priest. The two affidavits, along with a letter and two more affidavits against Carton, were submitted to Lagdameo.

The letters were signed by Gerrylin Camposagrado, Eusebia Grecia, Lilith Tronco, Leah Arnaiz and Buenaflor Torillo, who claimed to be parishioners of San Juan de Sahagun in Tigbauan.

They claimed that Carton, among others, had committed acts detrimental to the ecclesiastical community and has an infirm mind and body, which rendered him incapable of performing his duties.

Last year a group of parishioners in Tigbauan also sought Carton's ouster for alleged mismanagement, corruption and politicking and failure to account for donations from the parishioners.

The Archdiocese investigated the complaints while Carton went on vacation late last year. But the Archdiocese did not reveal the result of its investigation. Carton returned to his parish in March.

Supporters of Carton refuted the allegations against the priest. They wrote the archbishop and sent letters to a local daily in Carton's defense.

Trance said the committee under the Presbyteral Council would wrap up their investigation this week.

"We will inform the public of the process and the results of the investigation because we want to be transparent," said Trance.

# Police officer cleared of Pentagon links

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Camp Crame has cleared a ranking police officer in Central Mindanao of charges linking him to the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police chief, said Supt. Willie Dangane had been instructed to resume his functions.

Dangane now heads the Central Mindanao police Special Operations Group. He is reportedly being eyed by Sarangani Gov. Mike Escobar as the province's next chief of police.

As head of the anti-kidnapping Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon, Dangane was accused early this year of acting as the kidnap group's "protector."

Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Southern Mindanao police, accused Dangane before the Philippine National Police's Internal Service Affairs (ISA) of conniving with the Pentagon kidnap group, led by Faizal Marohombsar.

Matillano submitted affidavits executed by arrested Pentagon members in Davao del Sur, which implicated the police officer in kidnapping activities, including that of Canadian national Pierre Belanger.

Dangane said the accusations were meant to destroy his credibility because of his successful work against the Pentagon.

"I was just a victim of professional jealousy and power play among the top brass in the PNP," he told reporters after receiving news of his acquittal. He did not elaborate. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# *No cell phones for Benguet farmers*

**By Delmar Cariño**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MANKAYAN, Benguet—"*Nay pigay patatas issa?* (How much do potatoes cost there?)" "*Nagngato. Manburas ka et* (It's high. You better harvest now)."

These are supposed to be text messages between two Kankanaey farmers.

The first comes from a potato farm here while the other is from the vegetable trading post in La Trinidad town.

But this exchange has yet to happen, because until now, there are still no cellular phone transmission towers in most of Benguet's vegetable areas.

That's how important texting has become for the farmers, said Mayor Materno Luspian.

"If there are cell towers, farmers could readily use their mobile phones to monitor the prices of their produce or to call for help if their trucks find trouble along the highway while transporting vegetables," he said.

Luspian said the use of cell phones will surely boost the region's vegetable industry because it will assure better and faster communication between farmers and traders.

He said the industry continues to suffer from fluctuating prices, high cost of farm inputs and dictates of middlemen.

"The farmers also have to contend with the rugged mountain trails of Halsema to sell their products to the city," he added.

Halsema is the main highway that links the vegetable producing towns of La Trinidad, Tublay, Atok, Buguias and Mankayan.

Save for portions of the "highest peak" in Atok, no signal is available for cell phones in these areas. This town is 90 km from Baguio City but travel takes about four hours.

A fourth class town with an annual income of P35 million, Mankayan has an area of 17,000 hectares with a population of more than 38,000.

It also hosts Lepanto mining, the country's top gold producer.

Luspian said Mankayan, which produces potatoes, cabbage and beans, is willing to host a cell tower. "But this must be erected in an area away from the people," he said.

The town council has passed a resolution asking Smart to build a tower, he said. He also contacted Globe but he was told that the firm had no expansion plans in the area.

Luspian recalled that a woman once applied for a business permit to sell cell cards in the town's public market. He told the woman there was no signal for cell phones here and her business might run dry.

Luspian said a good cell tower site would be at Mt. Data in Mt. Province.

"The area is perfect since a tower's signal can reach as far as Bakun and nearby towns of Mt. Province," he said.

## ROUNDUP

### Irish couple killed

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—An Irish man, his wife and two others were killed in separate accidents along the national highway here yesterday and Friday. Police said Timothy O'Leary, 60, of Corcash, Ireland, his wife Kathleen Dirige, 34, and their driver, Romeo Agustin, 48, were killed when their Nissan Caravan collided with a soft drink delivery truck in Barangay Villaros here. Reports said the truck driver, Joel Mangaoang, 23, lost control of his vehicle as it negotiated a tight downhill curve and rammed into the victims' van. Mangaong, who escaped injury, surrendered to the police. Yesterday, farmer Pedro Pelayo, 23 was killed when a Wrangler jeep he and four others were riding in fell into a ravine in Sitio Curasay in Barangay Baretbet here.
*Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Gov suspends employee

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani suspended a provincial government employee after he was found guilty of sexually harassing a female employee in September 2001. In his order dated April 10, Agbayani suspended Ernesto Sobrepeña, supervising cooperative development specialist and head of the cooperative development division of the Provincial Cooperative Affairs Office, for four months without pay. This came following a complaint from a female employee that Sobrepeña "maliciously pulled her near him, placed his arms on her shoulder without her consent." The provincial government's committee on decorum and investigation found Sobrepeña guilty of "less grave sexual harassment offense."
*Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Mayor's aide slain

ALICIA, Isabela—A security aide of Mayor Napoleon Dy was killed while a policeman was wounded on Thursday night after a shootout in Barangay Calaocan here. Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, identified the fatality as Victorino de la Cruz, 44. Police said they received reports that De la Cruz had indiscriminately fired his Armalite rifle in Paddad village. When policemen arrived, De la Cruz sped away in his Mazda van, prompting them to put a checkpoint along the Alicia-San Mateo road. Dela Cruz's van was flagged down but he reportedly fired at the policemen, wounding SPO3 Edward Reyno. The policemen returned fire, killing Dela Cruz.
*Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### 3 die in road mishap

BACOLOD CITY—Three persons died and 16 others were injured when the passenger jeep they were riding in plunged into a ravine on Tuesday in Calatrava, Negros Occidental. Killed were Simplicio Cardiente, Efren Caballes and Evangeline Tormis, all residents of Calatrava, some 129 km east of here. Insp. Darius Mascunana, Calatrava police chief, said jeepney driver Diosdado Pacaldo was negotiating a downhill slope in Sitio Camansiles, Barangay Tigbon when one of the tires exploded. Pacaldo lost control of the vehicle, which later turned turtle and then fell into a ravine, said Mascunana. Pacaldo surrendered to the police after the injured passengers were brought to a nearby hospital and various clinics in Calatrava and Toboso. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### 2 killed in shooting

DUMALAG, Capiz—Two persons were killed while another was wounded following an argument in Sitio Agbay-ang, Barangay San Rafael here on Monday. Killed were Danilo Faeldonea, 43, and his brother-in-law Ludrico Feola, 37. Danilo's brother, Wilfredo, 52, was recuperating in a hospital for a bullet wound in the stomach. Police said the brothers were on their way home when Feola allegedly shot them. Danilo was hit in the different parts of the body. Although wounded, Wilfredo managed to grab Feola's firearm and bolo. Feola suffered hack wounds on the face and arms and a bullet wound on the chest. Feola and Danilo were brought to separate hospitals but both were declared dead.
*Gerry T. Pagharlon, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### Soldier hacked to death

SIGMA, Capiz—A former militiaman hacked to death an Army soldier while having a drinking spree in Barangay Oyong here on Sunday. Killed was Sergeant Antonio del Monte of the 12th Infantry Battalion based in Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan town, Capiz. Del Monte was a team leader of the Bravo Company assigned in Sigma. Rolly Obrence, a former member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit, surrendered to the Sigma police. Police records showed Del Mar's and Obrence's groups had a drinking session before the incident happened. Obrence reportedly blamed Del Monte for his relief as a Cafgu member. *Gerry T. Pagharlon, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### Police seize shabu

SORSOGON CITY—Elements of the 504th Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and Sorsogon City police confiscated on Thursday 10 big plastic sachets containing shabu, P96,000 cash, a weighing scale, cellular phones, and assorted jewelry during a raid on a rented house of one Erlen de Lareza at Barangay Burabod here. The raiding team was armed with a search warrant issued by Judge Honesto Villa of Regional Trial Court Branch 52 on June 19. Police brought De Lareza to the CIDG Sorsogon office for investigation. *Emir E. Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao

*Editor* **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Nico A. Alconaba**

# Romancing the stone forts of Iligan

**By Christine Godinez-Ortega**
*Iligan City*

THE STONE remains of Iligan City's last stone fort, the Victoria or Cotta de Iligan, which was built in 1872, have disappeared.

And almost four centuries after its first fort, the St. Francis Xavier, built in 1642, was claimed by the elements, here comes someone who argues against accepted historical facts.

Now if a single stone from these forts could be found today and if that stone could talk, fortunes would be reversed. Certainly, Iligan's historic character would be restored and its reputation of being just the site of waterfalls and lagoons should take on new meaning.

It is indeed difficult to establish links with the past without these stone landmarks. But based on written records, maps and old photographs, these forts were found at the accepted location—along the Iligan River.

The sites are near what was once the Jesuit settlement of Tambacan when the Spanish and American colonialists used Iligan as a staging area for the subjugation and Christianization of Mindanao, especially its northern and central regions.

Roberto Navales, in his thesis titled "Iligan History: A Deconstructionist Perspective" and submitted to the Graduate School of the Mindanao State University in Marawi City, argues that Fort St. Francis Xavier was built at the Nonucan River delta, not along the Iligan River.

Admittedly, Novales' interpretations of Iligan's precolonial history are slanted, but they must be considered in the search for the truth.

### St. Francis Xavier

Navales uses alternative "historical" sources, such as the Dumaan oral traditions that trace the common lineage of the Higaunon and the Maranao, and the Panda family *tarsilas* (genealogies), to boost his claim.

Nonucan, now a sitio of Barangay Suarez, according to Navales, offers a rich trove of historical data if diggings were conducted in the area where the buildings of the defunct Marcelo Fertilizer Plant and National Steel Corp. now stand.

Armed with the Iligan and Overton Anchorages and Quinalong Cove Map, Navales points to a part marked "ruins" along a coral lined shore as the supposed site of Fort St. Francis Xavier.

Historian Murillo Velarde describes the fort in Tambacan as "of good stone dedicated to St. Francis Xavier; in the shape of a star; the wall is two *varas* (2.8 feet) high and a half *vara* thick; it has a garrison, artillery and weapons."

In 1738, Diaz Trechuelo, another historian, describes the same fort as "a redoubt made of stone with four angles bastioned; and, in the center a strongly fortified square structure on which were mounted four pieces of artillery. The whole was surrounded by a fence consisting of a double palisade, 942 feet in circumference."

"The poblacion of Iligan was likewise surrounded by another fence, and within the enclosure were the government buildings, the church and the rectory," he says.

Trechuelo asserts that the fort was built within the Tambacan village near the Iligan River, seven kilometers away from Nunocan.

Unfortunately, Navales was not convincing about the location of Fort St. Francis Xavier in Nunocan because he was not clear about his directions. He puts Nunocan west of the Iligan city proper, which would put it smack in the Iligan Bay. In fact, Nunocan is southwest of the city proper.

### Genealogies

No doubt the Dumaan oral traditions and the *tarsilas* of the Panda family offer clues that Iligan's beginnings were part of ancient history, and that thriving settlements were in place in Bayug and Nonucan before the arrival of the Spaniards and the Christian migrants.

Navales' work likewise goes against the emphasis on the Christianization and the migrants' roles in making Iligan a progressive city by local historians, like Miguel Bernad, Fr. Francisco Demetrio, Camilo Cabili, Patrocinia Acut, Ricardo Jorge Caluen and Geoffrey Salgado.

History is a science and there is no substitute for factual evidence when writing about historical events. But in the absence of facts, can oral traditions and *tarsilas* be reliable sources since there is the matter of separating the chaff from the grain?

According to Myrna Marohombsar, a history professor of the MSU-Iligan, the "roots of the family" are found in the *tarsila*, which is not accessible to non-family members.

The document is guarded by members of the family who owns it as some of its contents may be used against them. Marohombsar explains that in the Maranao worldview, when a family member becomes a top politician for instance, knowing the ugly side of his family "could lessen his integrity."

Only the most responsible family member is entrusted with the *tarsila*, she adds.

But another MSU history professor, Manuel Tawagon, who did extensive research on the Balo-i Pat-a-Pangampong (confederation of four Maranao states), said the *tarsilas* as historical sources "can be questioned" because of its "telescoping," that is, some persons are excluded or included to highlight the family's distinguished lineage or downplay unfavorable events.

Based again on the Dumaan oral traditions and the Panda *tarsila*, Iligan's prosperous community, Nunocan, in Navales' interpretation was "blotted out" as part of efforts by Spanish colonizers to focus on their own evangelism topped by "miracles" and victories in battles against the "Moros," "natives" and "heathens."

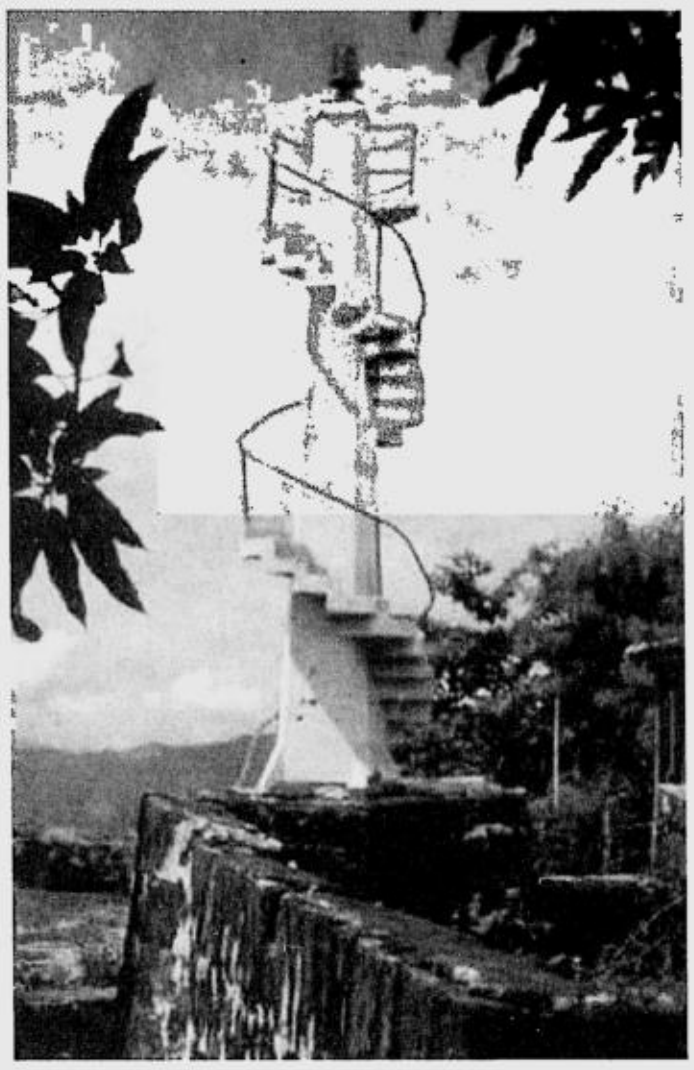


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OZAMIZ CITY TOURISM OFFICE

**ILIGAN'S stone forts looked like the stone fort in Ozamiz City (above) built in 1755 under the direction of the Jesuit priest Jose Ducos, Captain General of the Iligan Armada.**

### Miracles

Examples of these "miracles" are those of the rain and the locusts as told by Demetrio but not mentioned by Navales, although Navales concludes that from the point of view of the Higaunons and Maranaos, the miracles were part of a deception to Christianize and subjugate them.

In the mid-17th century, Demetrio narrates that a village gradually grew in the shelter of Fort St. Francis Xavier.

Here, in 1650, a Jesuit priest, Pedro Gutierrez, who was best remembered for his oratory and friendly ways, built the first chapel and amazed the villagers with his "miracles."

When a long drought hit Iligan that year, Gutierrez promised the villagers rain if they would help build the roof of the chapel. The villagers, composed of Higaunons and Malanaos, did, and rain fell afterwards.

The drought was followed by a plague of locusts that attacked the grain. Gutierrez exorcised the locusts, which simply thrust their heads into the ground.

Whether such phenomenon has a scientific explanation or merely fiction, we never can tell, but what we were told was that many natives converted to Christianity after that.

The Mexican-born Gutierrez established permanent residence in the older Jesuit mission in Dapitan. In Demetrio's narratives, Gutierrez died in Iligan on July 25, 1621.

### Defender

A century later, the Iligan village became the capital of the *corregimiento* (provincial subdivision) of Iligan, which included all of what is now Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte and most of Misamis Oriental, but excluding Cagayan de Oro City (then known as Cagayang).

In 1754, the village was made the base of the Iligan armada under the command of Fr. Jose Ducos, known as the "Defender of Iligan."

But Navales asserts that the military might of the Spaniards and the presence of Fort St. Francis Xavier showed "disrespect" of the beliefs of the natives. The fort, according to him, encouraged resistance against the Spaniards by the Maranaos. This explains the repeated and "formal attacks" on the fort that Navales locates at the Nonucan village.

### Malanao attack

Considered one of Mindanao's strongest stone forts, St. Francis Xavier withstood repeated Moro attacks. Understandably, the Jesuit chroniclers gave glowing reports of the leadership of Ducos, captain general of the armada and the heroism of his defenders while they downplayed the *raison d'etre* of the natives' resistance to colonial rule.

On June 16, 1753, Ducos sent a letter to Fr. Juan Angeles in Manila, informing him that Iligan was besieged by 2,000 Malanaos

Iligan's fathers must have shown a sense of history when they established the city's charter on June 16, 1950, exactly three years short of the second centennial of the defining moment of its existence.

### Pacification

In the letter quoted by Jesuit priest Miguel Bernad in his book, "History against the Landscape," Ducos rued that the Iligan defenders were ill prepared, the "gunners were poor shots," and their stored gunpowder had turned to "charcoal" due to long storage.

Ducos, son of a colonel, lost no time training the defenders. The siege lasted two months, but Fort St. Francis Xavier held out.

The Malanaos fled only after Cebu sent, rather belatedly because of communication hitches, 300 Boholanos in a flotilla of one *champan* and nine native boats.

The Visayan troops and the Iligan defenders pursued the fleeing Malanaos toward the Linamon River, but they were repelled.

Except for Bernad's book, not much is made known about the strategies of the Malanaos in their attempts to topple the defenses of the fort.

In the next four years, Ducos' armada successfully patrolled the Iligan and Pangil Bays, going up the rivers of Linamon, Liangan (Bacolod) and Langaran (Plaridel). The fleet contributed to the Christianization of these parts of Mindanao and of Iligan in spite of its closeness to the Islamized Maranaos of Lanao.

Its base was later transferred to Misamis (Ozamiz) when its stone fort, which still stands today, was built there in 1755 under the direction of Ducos.

But in the end, the armada proved too expensive to maintain as it was needed in defending other parts of the country. Later, it fell victim to the Jesuit-Recollect rivalry when it was suppressed in 1759 by the acting governor-general, Cebu Recollect Bishop Miguel Lino de Ezpeleta.

### Fort Victoria

After the Jesuits were banished from all Spanish territories in 1767 by the edict of King Charles III, the Recollects took over the Jesuit missions in Mindanao.

On the site of the first chapel built by Father Gutierrez in Iligan, the Recollects built the first parish church in 1834, with St. Michael the Archangel as patron saint.

When Fort St. Francis Xavier was destroyed, most likely by floods although this was never made clear, Fort Victoria or the Cotta de Iligan was built behind what is now the Philippine National Bank branch in Iligan.

During the Spanish and American colonial governments in the late 1800s, Iligan was again used as launching pads for Moro pacification campaigns.

Two Spanish governors-general—Ramon Blanco and Valeriano Weyler—stayed in Fort Victoria during these campaigns and in 1902, it was then Capt. John J. Pershing's turn to stay there.

Two years later, a British journalist, Arnold Henry Savage Landor, who joined Pershing's regiment, wrote about Iligan's "tumbling-down fort," referring to Victoria, which the floods in 1912 and 1919 eventually destroyed. It was a case of stone giving way to water.

# *The Iron Mountain of Surigao del Sur*

**By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing**
*Surigao del Sur*

IMAGINE a 25-km serpentine mountain trail chiseled in rough red earth and a mass of boulders reaching up to the sky.

Locally known as the Novienta, the mountain offers an awesome view of the Pacific Ocean, the main reason you should go there.

Its unique character is two-dimensional: one moment you are embraced by rugged mountain walls, and the next, you are confronted and drawn to the deep blue ocean and open sky.

Standing on a cliff, the coast (during low tide) forms a huge abstract on a canvas facing the sky. There is nothing like it anywhere else.

But there are other reasons for this trip to be even more interesting.

For one, this is home to the *magkuno* (or ironwood), an endemic tree considered the sturdiest in the world. The terrain of solid rock is the tree's natural habitat.

Now, how did the mountain ever get its name? Well, the mountain—its entirety, in fact—happens to have the country's largest iron deposit.

Reaching as high as 500 meters, the mountain, which straddles Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Norte and Misamis Oriental, has been dreaded for years by commuters. They dare not pass the place, leaving it to neglect and in bad condition.

"When I was young and coming from school in Surigao City, I would close my eyes as we passed here, scared of the height and nervous of what may come," said Lala Ambray, provincial tourism officer.

Today, Ambray, like all other residents, are regular commuters who look forward to the sight, comfort and even the smell of the mountain.

A tree known as *poyospos* with its tiny hundred white flowers smells like perfume. It does not grow in other places.

Practically, no one lives within the mountain area. The only people you occasionally see are woodcutters who ironically know that what they are doing is illegal.

The highway, though not concrete, is paved and well maintained by the Department of Public Works and Highways. People credit the peace, safety and stability of the mountain to the current governor, Vicente Pimentel.

Pimentel pursued criminals relentlessly when he was still mayor of Carascal, the town nearest to the mountain. Now, traffic to and from neighboring cities and even as far as Cagayan de Oro City and Tandag, the capital town of Surigao del Sur, is easier and definitely nearer.

This development should be maximized and taken to good use by the tourism, travel and business sectors. Without a doubt, Iron Mountain can stand on its own as a major tourist destination. It only needs creativity and vigor to seize the opportunity.

Two waiting sheds have been put up on cliffs on the Carascal side, but a more convenient view deck on the Pacific side could spell a difference. A perfect venue for sightseeing, picnics and photo sessions.

But one doesn't have to stop there. One may roll down to the nearby towns of Carascal and Cantilan, and their splendid islands. Two other towns, Lanuza and Cortes, should not be missed.

As one may see it, the Iron Mountain is a sleeping dragon waiting to spew fire.

**A VIEW of the Pacific Ocean from the Iron Mountain**

FERDINAND EDRALIN

# Reward for Sabaya's body

From page A1

bandits could prove to be difficult because the waters off Barangay Mantibog are "very treacherous, with strong current, waves move outward from the curved shorelines and that the place is shark-infested."

"It's like the Chinook crash (in the Visayas). The bodies of the Americans killed in the crash were only recovered after one month. In Sabaya's case, patience and hard work is what we need," Carolina told the INQUIRER in a separate interview.

### Fishermen in search

Retired Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales, the military's spokesperson for its operations against the Abu Sayyaf, said that fishermen from Zamboanga del Norte had already joined the search.

"Despite the fact that we are already sure of Sabaya's death, we also want to recover his body to put to rest any kind of speculation that he may still be alive," Rosales told the INQUIRER.

Rosales said hundreds of fishermen have been spurred by the reward money to participate in the recovery efforts. Their participation has helped expand the scope of the search, he added.

"Because of the P50,000 reward, many fishermen in the area have joined the search. Their participation is important since the area is quite wide," Rosales said.

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion said he was confident that the AFP would soon recover the body.

"With the SWAG (Special Warfare Group) divers following the pattern of the current, it would be easy to recover the body very soon," Purificacion said.

If the divers follow the current, they could easily spot Sabaya's body underwater and recover the bandit leader's remains, he said.

He confirmed that there are sharks that could have already eaten Sabaya's body in the Sulu Sea. He was hopeful, however, that the SWAG divers will get to the body first.

"The sharks don't stay in one area. They roam the wide open sea," Purificacion said.

Aside from the divers, Navy helicopters are also scouring the area.

### Positive news

Despite the missing body, military officials continued to say they were positive Sabaya was indeed dead.

"As far as killing Sabaya, we are very sure of that, that we have killed Sabaya. But to produce the body, the habeas corpus, that is something else," Carolina said.

Carolina presented Sabaya's personal belongings that soldiers had recovered from various encounter sites.

These included two pairs of Sabaya's trademark sunglasses, a black Hawk backpack, toiletries, a satellite phone, a driver's license, receipts, camouflage uniforms, a plain long white dress commonly used by fundamentalist Muslims, ammunition, a caliber .45 pistol and medicine.

Carolina said the bandit leader's personal effects were "enough assurance that we really got him dead."

"In other words, there is no iota of doubt anymore that one of the dead bodies we are looking for right now belongs to Abu Sabaya," he said.

Golez admitted the military had to recover Sabaya's remains to prove that the bandit leader was indeed dead. But he insisted that "all indications" showed that Abu Sabaya is dead.

He said the four Abu Sayyaf bandits captured in Friday's predawn encounter corroborated a "prior intelligence report" that Abu Sabaya was with the group, as well as the claim of a soldier who said he fatally shot one of the bandits whose clothes were supposedly similar to Sabaya's.

The self-styled Abu Sayyaf spokesperson was leaving Sibuco on board a pumpboat along with six bandits on Friday when members of the Marines and the Navy's Special Warfare Group (Swag) caught up with them.

During the encounter, which occurred in the seas near Mantibog Point, the military said, Sabaya was killed. Sabaya and his two followers, identified as Ibno Hajar and Abu Musa, fell into the water after the pursuing Navy boat rammed their vessel.

Maj. Richard Sater, spokesperson for American forces deployed in the South, said US troops were providing the AFP with information about tides and currents but were not taking part in the actual search.

### Reactions all around

Zamboanga del Sur Bishop Antonio Ledesma urged the military to provide proof that Sabaya was indeed dead. "For people living in the throes of terror for years now, it is very important for them to be fully convinced of the death" of Sabaya, Ledesma said.

Ledesma told reporters over the phone that the Catholic Church remained supportive of the way the military has been conducting the war on terrorism.

In San Fernando City, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Sabaya's death would boost tourism and investment in the country. "It is a big boost. We will see how the stock market will react on Monday," the President told reporters Friday night.

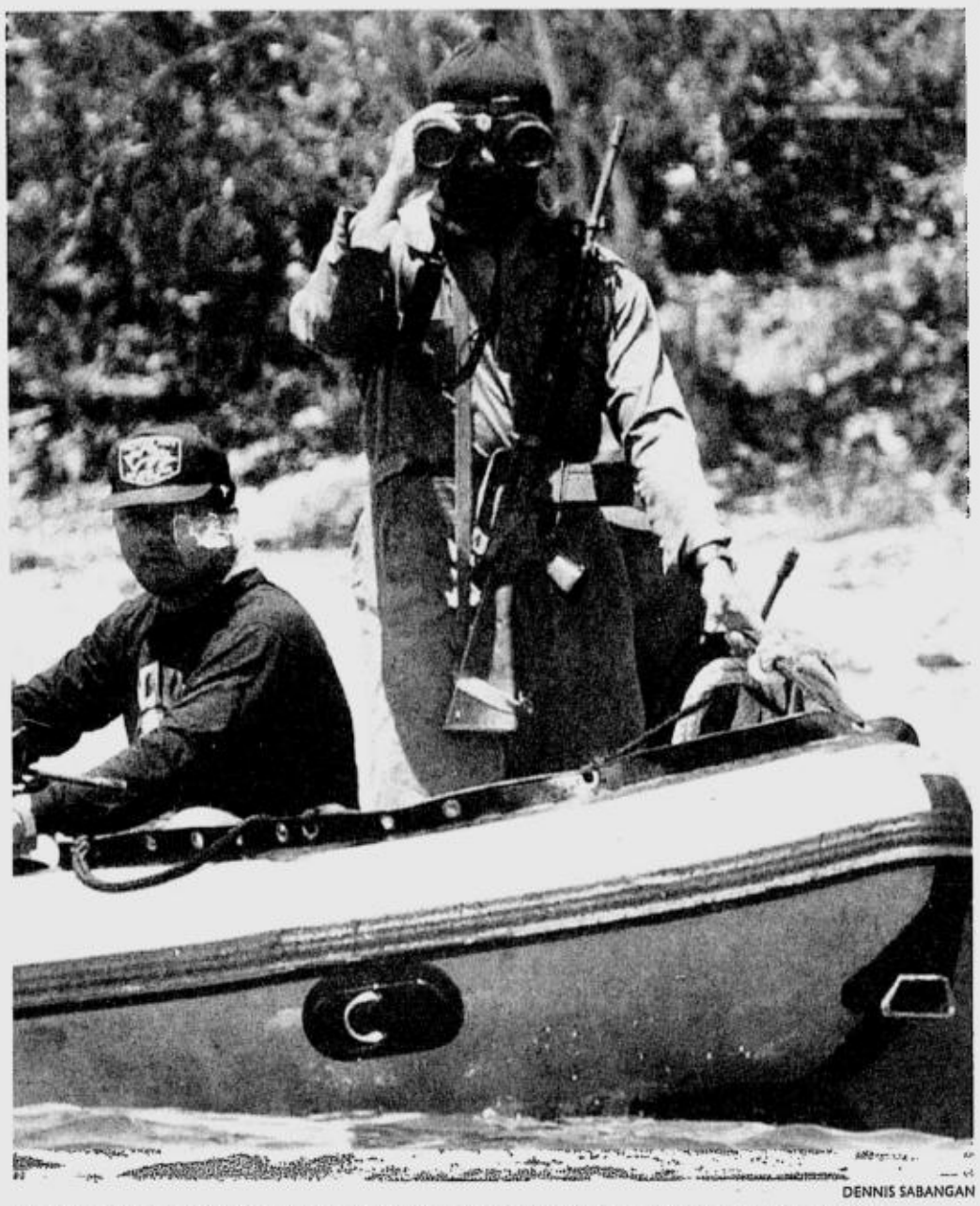
In Pampanga, Ms Macapagal critic Rep. Satur Ocampo said, if proven true, the killing of Sabaya would be a "feather in the cap" of the President. If the Abu Sayyaf were totally annihilated, then this would be a "bonanza" to the administration. But he said it would be difficult to crush the group, because the problem involved socio-economic and political complications.

At the Senate, opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. asked the AFP to be "100-percent sure" about Sabaya's death. "The death of Abu Sabaya must be fully verified. Efforts must be exhausted to recover his body," Pimentel said.

At the House, congressmen received the news with cautious optimism. "We should postpone our celebration until we finish them off," said Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat.

"While we congratulate our Armed Forces for a job well done, we should not stop our campaign against the Abu Sayyaf because (Khadaffy) Janjalani is still out there," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr.

At the Southcom headquarters, Carolina said the termination of Operation Daybreak in Zamboanga del Norte paves the way for Operation Daylight. This operation, he said, would be aimed against other Abu Sayyaf leaders in Sulu and Basilan. It will also seek to effect the rescue of the three remaining Indonesians abducted last week. ***With reports from Armand Nocum; Peter Julian, Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Cynthia Balana; Juliet Javellana***



DENNIS SABANGAN

**SEARCH AND RESCUE:** Navy men scan the waters off Sibuco for the body of Abu Sabaya.

# *Abu Sabaya: Eskinol boy?*

**By Julie S. Alipala**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SOME of Abu Sabaya's personal effects have proved to be a puzzle to the soldiers who recovered them.

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina yesterday said it appeared that the Abu Sayyaf leader used beauty products regularly—even during the 12 months the bandits were hiding in the jungles of Basilan and Zamboanga del Norte with their hostages.

"I was really very amazed," Carolina said.

A Marine later said: "If I had not known that the backpack was Sabaya's, I would conclude that it belonged to a female guerrilla."

Carolina said he suspected that the bandit leader suffered from a dual personality.

"Yes, many men are somehow conscious of their skin, they use moisturizers. But this one (Sabaya), it shows how vain he was. He projected himself as a tough guy, a bad boy, but with all these items, he had a soft spot," he said.

But a former Abu Sayyaf member who now works for Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said that unknown to many, Abu Sayyaf members are conscious of their appearance.

Bashier Hamja alias Abu Ateng said even in the direct situation, bandit members always find time for a personal care regimen.

*"Mawalan na sila ng makain, huwag lang Eskinol, cotton o Pond's* (They can go without food, but not Eskinol, cotton or Pond's cream)," Ateng told the INQUIRER.

Former captive Edwin Reseroni said the bandits' attitude about their appearance proved amusing.

"I saw them cleaning their faces and their bodies using Eskinol. It was an entertaining sight for me," Reseroni said.

# Not-so-smart traffic system

From page A1

But if motorists cannot see any significant improvement in traffic, they should not blame the system. According to a DPWH official, the use of inferior bulbs in traffic signal lights has rendered the entire system ineffective.

"Those light bulbs are supposed to last up to 8,000 hours, but they get busted after only three months, or about 2,400 hours," Godofredo Galano, head of the DPWH-Traffic Engineering Center (TEC), told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He explained that although it was his office that put up the Sydney Coordinated Adoptive Traffic Signal System (SCATSS), the job of replacing the 16,000 bulbs in the 444 signal lights in the metropolis belonged to the TEC under the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

The much-vaunted SCATSS was supposed to work miracles for the traffic-prone metropolis because the system relied on computers and underground road sensors to detect the volume of vehicles passing through road intersections at any given time and adjust traffic signals accordingly.

The system, which took seven years to complete, was supposed to remove error in traffic signaling by traffic enforcers.

But the multimillion, state-of-the-art traffic system from Australia will not work if traffic signal lights are busted.

### Bulbs from China

Records from the DPWH-TEC showed that about 160 bulbs are damaged each day and the handful of MMDA men tasked to replace them could not cope with the large volume of work.

It was learned that the bulbs now being used are manufactured in China and are prone to get busted when they get wet.

Galano said that when the DPWH-TEC was still in charge of replacing traffic light bulbs, they were using bulbs manufactured in Japan, the Netherlands or the United States.

But Galano was quick to add that MMDA-TEC head Ernesto Camarillo should not be blamed for the present problem. He said lack of funds could have forced Camarillo to get lower quality bulbs.

And he said some of the brands the DPWH-TEC had been using might no longer be available in the market.

In a previous interview with the INQUIRER, Camarillo had said that traffic lights get easily damaged because many of the traffic lanterns installed in the metropolis were not weatherproof.

In a forum yesterday, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando promised to look for funds so his agency could install additional traffic lights in the metropolis. He said around 600 intersections in Metro Manila still did not have traffic lights. ***With a report from Alcuin Papa***

# Barangay chair held for harboring Sabaya; 1 of 4 Abu suspects dies of heart attack

THE MILITARY yesterday arrested the barangay chair of Mantibog, Sibuco, for harboring Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya and his men last week.

Samson Abbas was detained for allegedly giving sanctuary to Sabaya and his group from June 19 to June 21.

"He is an accessory to the crime of kidnapping. Kidnapping is a complex crime that involves conspiracy, meaning the act of one is the act of all, so we will be charging him for the same crime," said Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina.

Carolina said Sabaya's group stayed at Samson's house while they waited for a boat to take them to safety.

Meanwhile, Carolina said the military had requested the National Bureau of Investigation to perform an autopsy on the cadaver of Hassan Samsi, 22, who died on Friday evening while in military custody.

Samsi was one of four Abu Sayyaf members captured during the pre-dawn encounter in the waters off Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte, last Friday.

He said the bandit was rushed to the Camp Navarro Hospital after complaining of chest pains but died while being treated.

Carolina said that based on hospital records, "Samsi died of acute myocardial infarction."

***Julie Alipala, AP***

# Gloria savors 'great day,' basks in Bush tribute

From page A1

when we work together and are strong and are diligent, we can succeed," Bush said.

At the summit, Ms Macapagal vowed to see the war on terrorism through to the end.

"I renew this commitment to you, the people of Mindanao . . . the Abu Sayyaf is virtually finished. And we must not stop until we account for all of them," she said.

But the President also used last Friday's successful encounter to say she was going to be tough on crime—and on those law enforcers who abuse the people's trust. "(This) is going to be our new ethic in the drive for peace and order: Anybody who makes a blunder will be discharged as well as charged immediately."

### Summary dismissal

On her orders, incoming Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane summarily dismissed the 24 jail guards of Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faizal Marohombsar, who escaped from Camp Crame Thursday. He also ordered the immediate filing of criminal charges against them.

Ms Macapagal said former Pasay chief Senior Supt. Eduardo Dela Cerna and his 20 police officers who failed to save 4-year-old Dexter Balala from a hostage taker last month also deserved the same fate.

"I feel that the move (police authorities) made transferring the policemen of Pasay and putting them all under training is good but it's weak. They should have dismissed immediately the ones who were directly involved," she said.

The President said the police and the military would hunt down Marohombsar "wherever he goes," adding that a Marine battalion that was to have moved out of the Socsargen area to help in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf will stay put to help recapture the gang leader.

The President also ordered Ebdane to end the spate of kidnapping-for-ransom incidents within a year.

### Stop crime

Ms Macapagal said the military and the police would strive to end criminal activities elsewhere in the country.

"The people must be safe in their homes and places of work. They must be safe not only in the cities but in the farms in the hinterlands," she vowed.

"We shall strengthen law and order because we want to free our people from the tyranny of lawlessness and terrorism," she added.

"I am not speaking only of the rich and privileged. I am speaking of ordinary people who get held up in jeepneys or who get victimized by snatchers in the streets. I am speaking of the likes of Edibora Yap who had to endure poverty only to fall into the hands of terrorists. I am speaking of the people of Mindanao who earn their money through sweat only to be taken by bandits."

Unlike the police, however, the military received praise from the President for its ongoing operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"You have seen the excellence of our troops in Operation Daybreak, leading to the rescue of Gracia Burnham (last June 7). And you saw again the excellence of our troops in the battle (on Friday). You witnessed the bravery of our soldiers under heavy fire on land or at sea. They stand on guard in far away detachments," she said.

Ms Macapagal also praised American forces participating in the Balikatan 02-1 exercises in Basilan for providing invaluable support to the Philippine military.

"I think we wouldn't have been able to get Abu Sabaya yesterday or even rescue Gracia if we had not been able to avail of the modern facilities of the US forces in Balikatan," she said.

### More Balikatans

The President said there would be another round of joint "training exercises" immediately after the current one ends on July 31. "We shall start the next Balikatan immediately because the Mutual Defense Board is meeting on Thursday," she said. "So by the time that July 31 comes, I hope that they have the next Balikatan already worked out."

She said she wanted the next exercise to be "more geographically spread out." "As a result of the clamor from people all over the country, this time the Balikatan will be more geographically spread out, unlike this Balikatan which upon my request had been concentrated in Basilan," she said.

In a press briefing on Friday in La Union, she had said sophisticated US war materiel and equipment such as spy planes and night-vision goggles helped Filipino troops track the movements of the Abu Sayyaf.

Last Thursday, Ms Macapagal told reporters that the US military also greatly assisted in the rescue operation.

She said Bush "was quite well aware that the planning for Operation Daybreak was joint."

Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, the ground commander, was directing the operation from a Navy ship anchored off Sirawai "and he had some American officers on the boat," she said.

She added: "But they had no contact with (the soldiers in) the jungle. But if there had been an American command post at the company level, there would have been an intermediate—," and then stopped herself with a laugh, saying she might be divulging too much information.

In Florida, Bush shed no tears for the Abu Sayyaf. "They kidnapped, they killed, and today their leader met his maker, thanks to one of our coalition partners." He praised Ms Macapagal "for being tough and firm and strong to help rid the world of this particular threat."

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld also welcomed the development and praised Philippine leaders "for their continued battle against terrorism in their nation." ***With reports from Reuters, AP***

# The Ecleos: Love story ends in tragedy

By Connie E. Fernandez
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Alona Bacolod was a drum majorette when she first caught the attention of Ruben Ecleo Jr. At 14, she was more than half his age.

But that did not stop Ecleo from pursuing the young lass who was then only a sophomore at the Don Ruben Ecleo Sr. Memorial National School (DRESMNS) on Dinagat island.

The "love story," which started in the late 1980s when Ecleo spotted Alona at a DRESMNS sports contest where he was the guest of honor, was to end in tragedy.

Alona's decomposing body was found on Jan. 8 stuffed inside a garbage bag that had been dumped in Dalaguete town.

Ecleo has denied any involvement in his wife's death.

Alona was the fourth of eight children of Elpidio and Rosalia Bacolod. Originally from Masbate, the family moved to Dinagat island in the 1970s shortly after the parents became members of the Philippine Benevolent Missionary Association which was then headed by Ecleo's father, Ruben Sr.

Angelito "Niño" Bacolod, 24, recalled that his mother was not happy about Ecleo's interest in his sister because he was a notorious womanizer. This caused some fights with her husband who was a diehard PBMA member. In the end, the father prevailed.

It was not as if the family had a choice. They feared they would be harmed if they tried to stop Ecleo from seeing Alona.

"There was nothing we could do. What Ecleo wants, he gets," said Niño.

So no one objected when Ecleo took Alona from her home to live with him in his mansion. Alona was only 15.

Niño said his sister did not love Ecleo in the beginning but she grew to care for him because he made her feel important, pampering her with presents and foreign travel.

He sent her to school. In 1993, Alona transferred to Cebu to take a degree in biology preparatory to a medical course at the Cebu Doctors' College.

He finally married Alona in a simple civil ceremony a few days before her 20th birthday on May 25, 1994.

The marriage, however, did not stop Ecleo's womanizing, particularly since Alona could not often go home to Dinagat where her husband had by then assumed the leadership of the PBMA following his father's death.

Niño said his sister discovered her husband's philandering sometime between 1997 and 1998. She went back to Dinagat and confronted him and his mistress who was by then pregnant with Ecleo's child.

But Alona, who had also discovered that her husband was using illegal drugs, ultimately decided to stay with Ecleo. (He has strongly denied that he is a shabu user.)

"Her children stopped her from leaving," explained Niño. "She did not want them to grow up without a father."

Her marital woes made Alona even more determined to concentrate on her studies and become a doctor. She would have graduated from the Southwestern University medical school in March 2002.

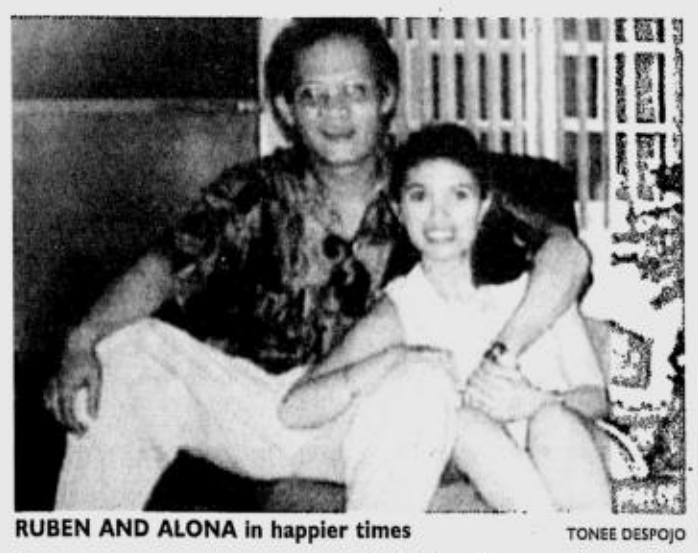
There would be other affairs. The fights worsened, particularly after Alona began to badger Ecleo into undergoing rehabilitation for drug abuse.

His sister also began to notice that Ecleo was starting to become indifferent to her, said Niño.

Another brother, Ricky, recalled that during the New Year, Alona complained that Ecleo was cold to her despite her efforts to reach out to him.

Their sister shocked them when she said: "If anything were to happen to me, you don't have to look far, ask my husband."

Five days later, Alona was reported missing.



RUBEN AND ALONA in happier times TONEE DESPOJO

# Ecleo lords it over in Cebu jail

From page A1

family last Tuesday.

"I miss my children so much. My Benna went to see me this morning and she told me, 'Daddy, I love you, I miss you.' I said to her 'I miss you too, but I have to stay here.' I almost cried," he said.

Besides Benna, Ecleo has two sons by Alona—Hero, 10 and Ludwig, 7.

Like Ecleo's other children from other women, the three live with Ecleo's mother, Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo on Dinagat island.

He will not let his mother visit because of the heat in his cell. His mother was not used to the heat, he said.

Ecleo likened his condition in jail as being like that of a newlywed—adjustments have to be made.

He said he slept well because his inmates fanned him until he fell asleep.

"They are nice. Most of the time they are OK. They assist me. I enjoy being with them because we talk a lot. We're having such a good time," he said.

He said he offered to help them in their legal battles once he gets out.

"They are innocent, I can feel their sincerity. I have to be out of here before I can help them. I feel sorry for them," he said.

Ecleo is not giving up his position as "supreme master" of the PBMA although he plans to delegate some of his duties.

He also denied that the PBMA was a cult group as alleged. He claimed it was "a pure association, only we have our own prayers."

He also denied he was addicted to illegal drugs. But he admitted that he used to take shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) once or twice two years ago.

Ecleo said the urine used in the Camp Crame test which found him positive for shabu might not have been his.

He also maintained that the three packs of shabu that were allegedly found in his luggage were not his and demanded an investigation.

In Surigao City, Merlinda Lagroma, senior board director of PBMA, said the 19 members of the group who were killed while trying to prevent police from arresting their leader have been declared martyrs and would be given a hero's burial within the week.

Aside from funeral honors, they will get a certificate of valor and some P20,000 in cash for their families.

The "martyrs" will be buried in a mass grave at the back of the Ecleo mansion on Dinagat island.

Lagroma, who is also a board member of Surigao del Norte provincial government, said they were considering filing charges against Supt. Alberto Olario, the regional police chief, for direct assault and "desecration" of their holy shrine.

She alleged that P1 million in cash and some jewelry were lost during police clearing-up operations.

She estimated the damage from the "assault" to be worth more than P5 million.

Olario said the accusations were "baseless" and were meant to discredit a legitimate police operation.

"It's their right to file (a case) but I doubt if it would hold water," he said.

Olario said he had been told by Ecleo that two of the slain PBMA cultists were active members of the Scout Rangers based in Davao. ***With a report from Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***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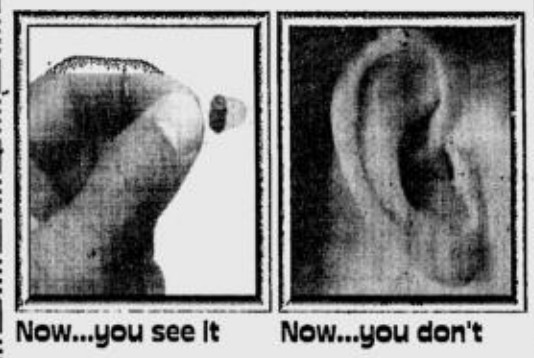

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# SundaySPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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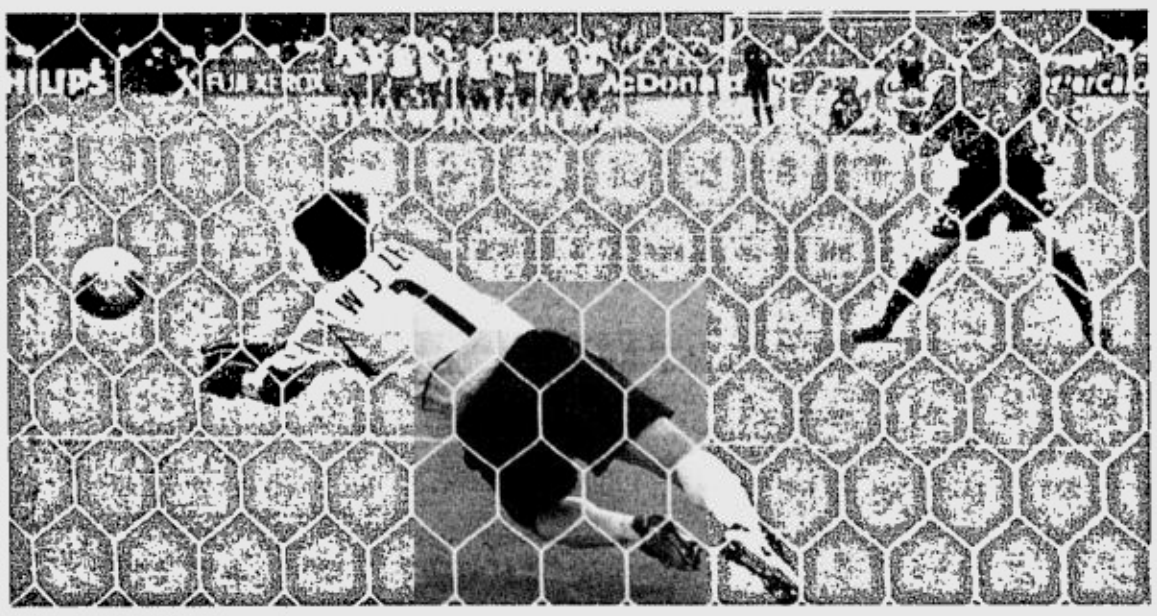
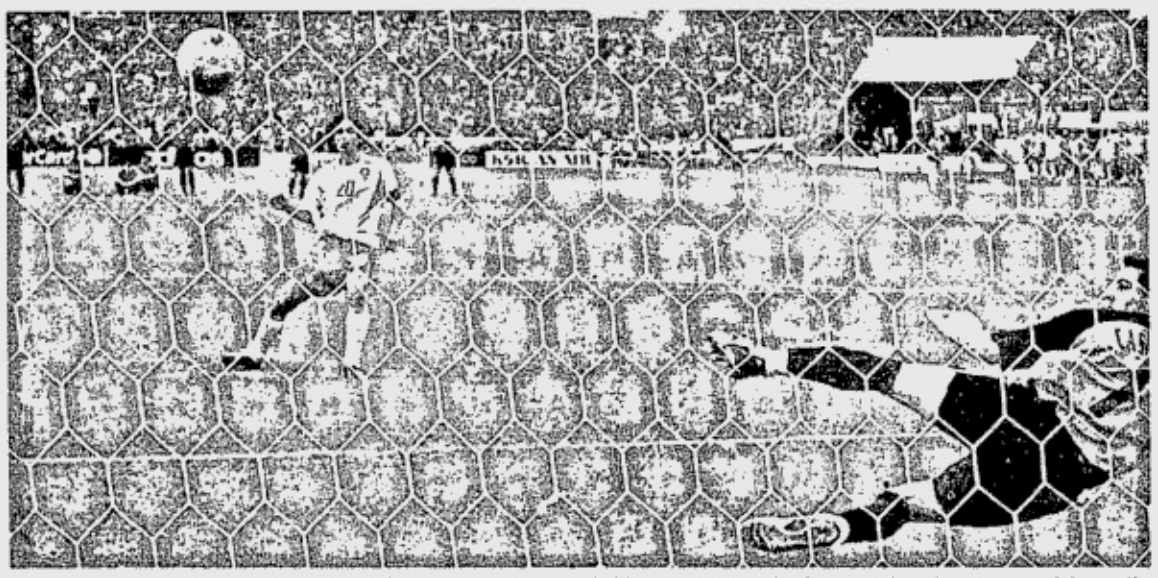
WORLD CUP SHOCKER

# Korea beats Spain, advances to semifinals



**WINNING MOVE.** Goalie Lee Won Jae's (left) deflection of Joaquin's fourth spot kick for Spain spelled the big difference in South Korea's 5-3 victory yesterday. REUTERS



**LOSING MOVE.** South Korean captain Hong Myung-bo (left) scores the winning penalty shot as Spanish goalie Iker Casillas dives to the wrong corner. AFP

**KWANGJU, South Korea—South Korea's incredible World Cup adventure took it into the semifinals on Saturday when it beat Spain in a penalty shootout.**

The co-host won it, 5-3, after the match finished goalless after 120 minutes to become the first Asian team to reach the last four—and only the second side from outside Europe and South America to do so (after the US in 1930).

Captain Hong Myung-bo converted the final spot-kick to detonate the stadium into delirium after goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae saved 20-year-old Joaquin's fourth effort for Spain.

The co-host will now face Germany in Tuesday's semifinal for the right to play in the Yokohama final on June 30. Brazil will play either Turkey or Senegal in the other semifinal.

The defeat is another agonizing chapter in Spain's miserable World Cup record as it sought to reach the final four for the first time in 52 years. To add to its pain, it was denied two goals—one in extra time—because of dubious decisions by a linesman.

"I can't describe the feeling. I'm so happy for the boys. More dreams have come true. We'll have a little glass of champagne now and what comes tomorrow comes tomorrow," said Korean coach Guus Hiddink.

Spain's coach Jose Antonio Camacho said: "I thought the referee would be fairer in a quarterfinal match like this. We fought to the end and went out because South Korea was luckier than us. I am just sorry we couldn't go any further."

### Poor refereeing

The row over the disallowed goals is sure to rumble on after Italy also claimed poor refereeing had led to their exit in the last round at the hands of the Koreans.

The co-host, though, could hardly believe its World Cup dream was still alive after failing in its five previous finals appearances to win a single match. Captain Hong is playing in his fourth finals.

For both teams, it was the second time running that they had endured extra time, Spain beating Ireland on penalties and South Korea ousting Italy with a golden goal from Ahn Jung-hwan in their second round matches.

South Korea's passionate "Red Devils" supporters packed the stands for the prospect of another glorious victory over European heavyweights, following their huge upset wins against Portugal and Italy.

In extra time, Spain's Fernando Morientes twice thought he had settled it, controversially having a goal disallowed because the ball was ruled to have earlier run out of play and another shot struck the woodwork.

Iker Casillas was forced into a fine save on 67 minutes, beating away a snap shot from Park Ji-sung, but there had been little else for the fans to cheer about for long stretches in a game mostly dominated by Spain. ***AP/Reuters***

## Turkey wins

OSAKA, Japan—Turkey, continuing its shock run at the World Cup, qualified for the semifinals for the first time in its history after beating Senegal 1-0 with a golden goal from Ilhan Mansiz on Saturday to knock out Africa's sole survivor.

The winner came in the fourth minute of extra time of a pulsating encounter.

The Turks' only previous appearance at the competition was in 1954 when they were knocked out in the first round. They now play Brazil in the semifinal on Wednesday.

Turkey had several chances to win the game, most of them falling in the first half to captain and all-time leading scorer Hakan Sukur.

## Colorful Korea

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

SOUTH Korea's amazing World Cup performance is worth reflecting on. Despite its being already a football power in Asia, South Korea, the first Asian country to barge into the World Cup semifinals following its 5-3 upset win over Spain yesterday, did not hesitate to hire a foreigner as its coach—Guus Hiddink of The Netherlands.

Isn't it time we think twice the next time we think of opposing foreign coaches to enter Philippine sports?

The globe has become a "small world community" that to still think along parochial lines is to be defeatist, if not "reactive."

■

**Here's Louie O. Reyes of Reyes Publishing Inc.**

**"You wrote that Casas did more harm than good to Philippine golf. I dare say you did much more harm to Philippine golf with what you have written about Casas' adventure.**

**"You are discouraging our golfers by making a mockery of Casas' effort. Evidently, with you 'winning' is everything. I pity you, for over and above winning is the 'trying.'**

**"He qualified to play at the U.S. Open, didn't he? Has anybody else tried, much less succeeded to qualify?**

**"Here's hoping you wield your mighty pen with more compassion and understanding."**

■

I never said that "Casas did more harm than good to Philippine golf." I'll pay you P510 or anyone who can produce that line in my June 16 column. If Reyes can invent, what's the use of treating him seriously?

But in the name of accuracy, let's continue.

Reyes said I was "discouraging our golfers by making a mockery of Casas' effort."

Oops, careful. What I said was, "Casas lacked the mental toughness." Is that mockery? Writing about Casas' 82 and 92 is mockery? Truth is mockery?

I'll be darned.

It was not evident in that column that I said "winning is everything." What was evident in that column was Casas did everything in the U.S. Open not to win.

Nobody said Casas didn't qualify or he could not have shot that two-day, 34-over-par total. Before him, many have tried, sir.

Thank you for that "mighty pen" thing. Modesty aside, I was oozing with compassion and understanding in that column. Read again. I said, "I love Casas. He is my beloved *compadre*. A son of his is my baptismal godson." Self-explanatory, *di ba*?

Reyes' letter is short but not sweet. That's because it's filled with inaccuracies, a result of an effort not well thought-out.

A friend of mine said that three persons roam this planet: 1) Practical 2) Stupid 3) Genius.

The practical thinks first before he talks.

The stupid speaks first before he thinks.

The genius talks and thinks at the same time.

Which of the three best describes Reader Reyes?

Your guess, as the cliché goes, is as good as mine.

# Gilbey's Volunteers tame Osaka Waves

**By Roy Luarca**

**GAMES TODAY (Mindanao Polytechnic Gym)**
1:00 p.m.—Negros vs Davao
3:30 p.m.—Cebu vs Cagayan

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Topex Robinson struck when needed most as Gilbey's Olongapo subdued Osaka Pangasinan, 88-79, and grabbed the provisional lead in the Northern division of the MBA National Conference yesterday at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center here.

The 5-foot-9 speedster canned five straight free throws to stop the rallying Waves, who came to within 77-72, after trailing by as many as 10 points at 72-62.

Gilbey's Olongapo improved its win-loss record to 2-1, while Osaka Pangasinan fell to 1-2.

Robinson finished with 10 points, three rebounds, one assist and four steals to earn best player honors for the first time.

Centers Jeffrey Flowers of the Volunteers and Romel Adducul of the Waves canceled each other out. Flowers wound up with 12 points, 26 rebounds and two blocks, while Adducul notched 10 points, 22 rebounds and eight blocks.

Flowers, however, got plenty of help from Joel Dualan, who collared 19 rebounds on top of 12 points. Brixter Encarnacion topscored for the Volunteers of Coach Junel Baculi with 24 points.

LBC Batangas and Pampanga, both at 1-1, were still playing at presstime with the winner catching up with Gilbey's Olongapo.

Meanwhile, Casino Cagayan de Oro stunned First Conference champion RCPI Negros, 110-102, Friday night at the Mindanao Polytechnic Gym in Cagayan de Oro City.

## Dandan advances

PALARONG Pambansa gold medalist Kyle Dandan of Colegio San Agustin stunned No. 4 Boris Jan Chavez, 6-2, 6-0, yesterday to reach the boys' 16-under quarterfinals in the Copa de Manila age-group tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis center.

Dandan will meet unseeded Nico Riego de Dios, who eliminated sixth seed Lawrence Magaway, 6-4, 6-4.

La Salle-Greenhills bets Jandrick de Castro and Irwin de Guzman, Nestor Celestino Jr. of San Beda, Arithmetico Lim of Chiang Kai Shek, Miguel Narvaez and Perene Alina also earned quarterfinals slots.

# Igusquiza forges fight vs Thai Olympian

**By Recah Trinidad**

SEREMBAN, Malaysia—Veteran international Anthony Igusquiza blasted Japan's Hirama Takehiro as Team Caltex scored a solitary win in Day 4 of the Asian Amateur Boxing Championship Thursday to arrange a showdown with a legendary Thai Olympic gold medalist.

Igusquiza, who showed no traces of his two-day bout with a bum stomach in dusting off the flatfooted Japanese, 21-8, was to seek revenge Saturday against Somluck Kamsing, a Thai boxing hero who became an instant multi-millionaire after capturing his country's first Olympic gold medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

In two other RP bouts Thursday, featherweight Roel Laguna and welterweight Florencio Ferrer were subdued by Thai opponents.

Laguna was outpointed by Khursed Sutithisak, 7-21, while Ferrer lost to rangy Manus Boonjamong, 8-12, as organizers finally came out with official scores midway in the tournament participated in by 29 countries.

Igusquiza has vowed to avenge a points defeat suffered against Kamsing in Cuba four years ago when they were still featherweights.

The 27-year-old Armyman from Antique found no trouble in dominating his inexperienced Japanese foe at the steamy Paroi stadium on Friday but, although Kamsing, 29, may no longer be at his peak, Igusquiza said he expected a tough encounter.

Kamsing, slow and tentative, relied on leftover guile and experience to eke out a 13-10, come-from behind win over Uzbekistan's Maledmodov Dilshop.

A win over Kamsing would automatically land Igusquiza in the quarterfinals and assure him of at least a bronze medal.

Two other Team Caltex fighters, light flyweight Lhyven Salazar and bantamweight Ferdie Gamo, were to seek their third straight wins and entry into the quarterfinal round on Saturday.

Light middleweight Christopher Camat, who drew a bye, will seek a slot in the quarterfinals against a Kyrgyzstan fighter today in this stint national team stint being bankrolled by Caltex Philippines with support from the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Revicon.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez said the Philippine participation in this prestigious event where fighters from Olympic medal winning nations are competing, will serve both as training and scouting ground for the RP team to the Busan Asian Games.

## Love, Webb, Mi share lead

CROMWELL, Connecticut—Davis Love III put his U.S. Open preparation to good use Friday in the Greater Hartford Open.

Love shot a bogey-free 6-under-par 64 in breezy afternoon conditions for a share of the second-round lead with Briny Baird and Jonathan Kaye at 8-under 132.

In Pittsford, New York, Mi Hyun Kim found her touch a week ago at the Evian Masters. She shows no signs of losing it. Kim shot a 5-under-par 67 on Friday at the LPGA Rochester International to move into a tie for the second-round lead with Australia's Karrie Webb at 8-under-par 136. ***AP***

**NOKIA GOLF**
**Ryan Abdon, team captain of the Alabang 400, hits his teeshot during the final round of the recent Nokia Intervillage at Wack Wack. The other participants were Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Las Piñas in the series organized in 1991 to promote fellowship among village golfers. The event resumes on June 25 at Wack Wack for Central entries.**

# RP hosting Asian trackfest

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

ATHLETICS association president Go Teng Kok yesterday said the Philippines won on its bid to host the 2003 Asian track and field championships, which the country last staged 10 years ago.

Back from the Asian Amateur Athletics Association convention held last week in Sri Lanka, Go said the 4As board awarded the Philippines the right to host after other countries begged off.

GO TENG KOK

The competition date is Sept. 18-21, while technical meetings and the 4As congress will be held on the 16th and 17th, respectively.

"They (4As officials) recognized that track and field is booming in our country not only in terms of talents but also in the number of people following the sport," Go told the INQUIRER.

Sri Lanka's minister of youth and sports Johnston Fernando has extended, through Go, an invitation to Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain in the turnover ceremony of the 2002 Asian Championships in August.

Go said Buhain already gave him his full support in staging the event although Buhain reiterated that the private sector has to play a big part in it especially in coming up with a budget which could reach about P20 million.

"Chair Buhain shares our vision of taking the sport to the next level. And because he is an athlete himself, he knows that our tracksters need to keep up with the best in the continent," said Go. "Holding the Asian championships here is the best way of giving them the exposure they need."

He said the 4As officials were convinced the Philippines is the best host for the Asian Championships after they witnessed the third leg of the successful Asian Grand Prix last month at the Rizal Memorial track oval.

In terms of talents, Go said the country has a far better chance of winning compared to the 1993 edition when only Elma Muros-Posadas managed to score a medal by taking the long jump bronze.

## Scepter Slasher champ

NEVER-SAY-DIE Scepter at Mulawin of Filipino cocker-breeders Frank Berin and Nonoy Gonzales scored seven points yesterday to emerge the solo champion of the 2002 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum, preserving Philippine domination of the international event.

. In January, another Philippine entry Spencer Winslet of Dicky Lim won the first leg of the two-leg World Slasher Derby organized by the National Cockers Association and sponsored by Thunderbird, makers of Enertone, the original ready-mixed maintenance feeds.

# Tigers prevail, wrest PBA lead

**GAMES TODAY** *(Araneta Coliseum)*
3:45 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska
5:45 p.m.—San Miguel vs Selecta-RP

**By June Navarro**

**COCA-COLA withstood a hot pursuit by the Shell Turbo Chargers to prevail, 78-70, and wrest the lead yesterday in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.**

Ron Hale poured 10 of his 35 points in the final quarter as the Florida State alum matched Sedric Webber on the offensive end to keep the Tigers out of reach.

Webber, who had 19 points during Shell's losing effort against Talk N Text last week, also exploded for 35 points but proved incapable of carrying the burden for the Turbo Chargers by himself.

As a result, coach Perry Ronquillo and his Turbo Chargers fell to 0-2, their worst start since the 2000 Governors Cup.

In the second game, Talk N Text leaned on Gerald Honeycutt at crunchtime to repulse Federal Express, 96-90, and share a 2-0 lead with the Tigers. Honeycutt had 38 points, 19 rebounds and four steals to overshadow the seven three-pointers of Renren Ritualo.

**BADION: Jolly, good fellow.**

## Jaime V. Ongpin Cup stakes ₱1.7M today

BEFORE Gran Copa de Manila 23 unfolds tomorrow at the Manila Jockey Club, horse racing fans would first be treated to a series of races bannered by the second leg of the Triple Crown Championship at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The country's top 3-year-olds take centerstage in today's program of races as 10 division standouts stake their claim to the Jaime V. Ongpin Cup, middle jewel of the local Triple Crown Series which carries a whopping P1.67 million in guaranteed money.

Impressive first leg (Cojuangco Cup) winner Golden Ballet leads the cast of protagonists for the 1,900-meter classic, traditionally held in honor of the late Jaime V. Ongpin, the former finance secretary who was responsible for the restructuring of taxes on horseracing in the late '80s.

The multititled filly is highly favored to score a follow-up victory following the withdrawal of main rival Unbreakable from the race due to injury.

A victory this afternoon will move her just a win away from the elusive racing Grand Slam. The past champions were Fair & Square (1981), Skywalker (1983), Time Master (1987), Magic Showtime (1988), Sun Dancer (1989), Strong Material (1986), Real Top (1989) and Silver Story (2001). Sun Dancer is the only filly to have achieved the rare feat.

Meanwhile, it's all set for tomorrow's 23rd Gran Copa de Manila Day as San Miguel Beer and International Container Terminal Services Inc., a leader in the global port industry, confirmed their participation as sponsors.

San Miguel Beer will be the main sponsor of the Gran Copa de Manila Division II Stakes Race and at least four (4) other Gran Copa Special Invitational Races. ICTSI, on the other hand, will bankroll the additional prizes for all the other Gran Copa Special Invitational Races slated throughout the day.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Security Bank leads BAA cagefest

SECURITY Bank posted two victories and took the early lead in the 14th Season of the Bankers Athletic Association Inter-Bank Basketball Tournament being held at the Meralco Gym in Ortigas, Pasig. Security Bank whipped Philippine National Bank in the June 8 inaugurals, 82-56, and upended BPI, 80-70, a week later. PNB remained in contention by beating Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on June 16, 69-46. Joining PNB and SB in the winners' circle is RCBC at the expense of Equitable-PCI, 82-70. Today's games pit BPI vs PNB; Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas vs RCBC and Equitable-PCI vs Security Bank.

### FVR joins reunion golf fellowship

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos tees off today along with colleagues from the elite Airborne Command in a Reunion Golf Fellowship at the Navy Golf Club commemorating the 40th founding anniversary of the Special Forces composed of rangers, paratroopers and jungle fighters headquartered up to now in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. FVR will also take part in a reunion lunch for the invited Special Forces' playing and non-playing members and their guests. The event is a prelude to the main celebration to be held in Fort Magsaysay on June 28.

### Benchpress Challenge at Megamall

THE GENERAL Nutrition Centers, the world's leader in sports nutrition, will hold the Benchpress Challenge on June 27 at the SM Megamall. The event, which begins at 2 p.m., is open to teams of five members, three males and two females with one alternate each. There will be prizes for the individual best male and female lifters. Also sponsoring the event are Powerlifters Associations, Oxyboost, Chris Sports and Hardware Sports.

### Fistorama features Dalisay-Sales bout

SAN Miguel Beer's "Fistorama" today features in its main event Robert Dalisay of Binangonan, Rizal, and Mark Sales of Tagum, Davao, in the 122 lb division. The fight was held recently at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Taguig, Metro-Manila in a fight card promoted by Edgardo "Boy" Cantada. Fistorama is produced by Joe Cantada Sports and presented by San Miguel Beer.

## Hall of Fame sans Badion

**By Dennis U. Eroa**

THE 3RD Hall of Fame ceremonies for seven cage greats will miss the magnetic, towering presence of two-time Olympian Charlie Badion.

Also to be missed are Eddie "Stonewall" Lim, who joined fellow Bedans and earlier inductees Carlos "The Great Difference" Loyzaga and Tony Genato and the electrifying Mariano "Nano" Tolentino, pride of Jose Rizal College (now a university).

A favorite of sportswriters because of his wit and knowledge of the game, Badion, 66, passed away last Thursday after a heart attack.

While serving as commissioner of the prestigious NCAA cage wars, the originator of the "bicycle drive" rubbed elbows and exchanged pleasantries with scribes covering basketball games at the historic Rizal Memorial Coliseum, scene of his countless triumphs while playing for the Philippine quintet.

Badion is one of seven basketball legends who will be enshrined before meaningful ceremonies on July 7 at the ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

Completing the third batch of inductees who will join 15 others already in the Hall of Fame are Kurt Bachman, Alfonso Marquez, Geronimo D. Cruz and Loreto Carbonnel.

Already in the Hall of Fame are Fely Fajardo, Charles Brock, Jacinto Ciria Cruz, Primitivo Martinez, Ramoncito Campos, Ed Ocampo, Gabriel Fajardo, Narciso Bernardo, Lauro Mumar, Rafael Hechanova Sr., Pocholo Martinez and Francisco Vestil.

Former Representative and Bukidnon Gov. Jose R. Zubiri Jr., chair of the Hall of Fame steering committee, expressed sadness on the demise of Badion.

## 'Araw ng Maynila' experience

**ONE WINNER**

*Edwin Villanueva*

AMONG the tennis-loving people I've known, Nilo Natividad is the only one who is very much into horse racing. A true-blue *dehadista*, Nilo sent us this piece a few days back and called to say that he wants to share his "Araw ng Maynila" experience to all his fellow *kareristas*.

Dear Edwin,

Greetings!

I usually write my letters in English but since many of our *bayang kareristas* request this letter to you to be made public, I will do so in our *sariling atin* language so pardon me for my Tagalog.

*Sa darating na Lunes (June 24) ay Araw ng Maynila na naman. Ang isang beses sa isang taon na pakarera ay talaga namang pinagpipyestahan ng mga dehadista. Nag-iimbak na ng pantaya ang mga nag-aabang na mananaya tulad ko para sa araw na ito.*

*Masaya ang Araw ng Maynila. Pag nananalo ang mga dehado lalung lumalakas ang sigawan at lumalaki ang bentahan. Bihira ang umuuwi na nakatungo o sabog ang nguso. Kahit talo masaya.*

*Maliwanang pa sa akin ang mga alaala nang itaya ko lahat-lahat pati pamato't panabla sa isang* longshot *na kabayo sa* Division 2 *kung saan si* Commissioner Boboc Domingo Jr. *na hinete pa nun ng ang nagpanalo sa dehadong-dehado na si* Sun Blast.

*Namuro ako ng tig-*P50 *at* P5,700++ *ang ibibigay sa bawat tiket ng mga puro ko. Kabadung-kabado ako habang naghahantay ng simula sa lumang grandstand ng MJC. Di ko masilip sa largabistang dala ko dahil sa sobrang kaba. Tinandaan ko na lang ang orange na debisa ni* Jockey Edison Pacampara *at nang tinatawag ni Peter Morrison si* Princess Damaris. *Nasilip ko na rumaragasa sa* far turn *si* Princess Damaris *at nasabi ko sa aking sarili na "*Princess Damaris *konti na lang,* please." *Nanalo nga ito at bayong! Masaya kong kinubra kay* Mareng Ruth Mamucod *ang tama ko.*

*Anyway, ang ibig kong maiparating sa inyo ay ang kaibahan ng programa tuwing Araw ng Maynila noon kumpara sa mga nakaraang tatlong taon. Mas maraming* entries *noon, mas balansyado at di pinahihirap ang eksamen tulad ng "pentapalpak" at "superpalpak."* Quartet *at* trifecta *nga lang, nag ke-*carryover *na.*

*Sa mga opisyal ng* MJC *o* San Lazaro, *sana mag-*concentrate *na lang kayo sa paglilinya ng maraming* entries *muna, (*at least 9 per race*) tapos pagbigyan ang lahat (*3 trifecta, 3 quartet, *3 pentapalpak at 3 superpalpak) kahit tuwing* June 24 *lang.*

*Maniwala kayo sa kin, makaka* record sales *na naman kayo ngayong taon!*

More power *sa* One Winner.

*Lubos na tumatangkilik at gumagalang,*
NILO NATIVIDAD
1262 Craig St., Sampaloc,
City of Manila

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

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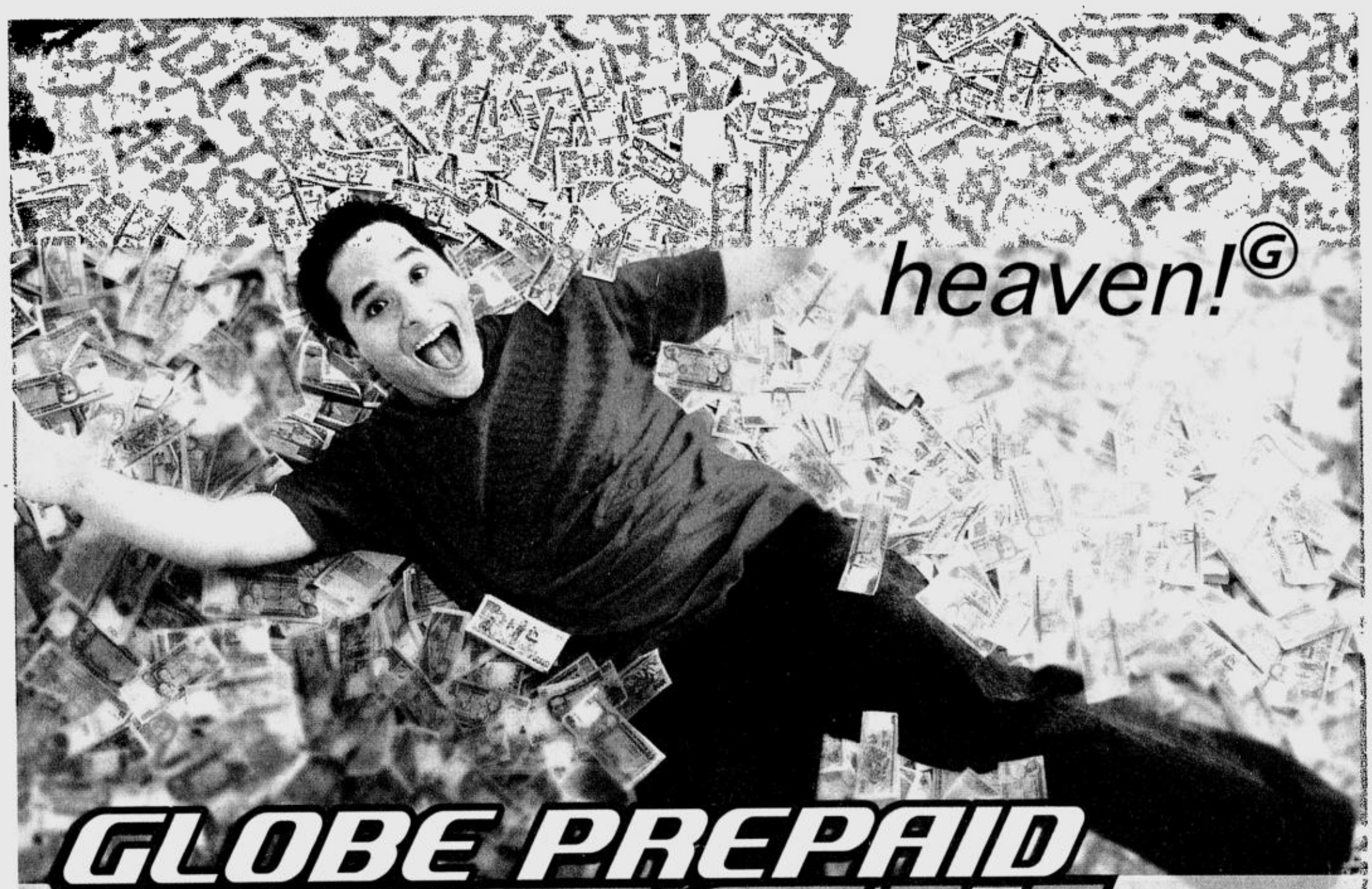


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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.2508, Series of 2002.

Ativan boss identified by 4 foreign victims /A22
2 kidnapped men found alive /A22

# METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

**Non-working holiday in Manila tomorrow**

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has declared Monday, June 24, 2002, as a special non-working day in Manila. Monday is "Araw ng Maynila," the 431st foundation day of the city.

# To ease traffic, take sidewalks back from vendors, says Fernando

By Alcuin Papa

**RECOVER the sidewalks.**

**This is the battlecry of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando in his bid to solve the traffic mess in Metro Manila.**

"We have to recover the sidewalks," Fernando said in a forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. "We need to clear the (sidewalks of) vendors."

He said the MMDA would also have to clear the sidewalks of junk, old cars and parked vehicles. The MMDA will also make people use garages instead of parking their vehicles in the streets, according to him.

"We can't give in to the caprices of people," he said. "You can't have your cake and eat it, too."

Fernando hinted that he might open the roads in subdivisions to decongest the main roads.

"There is no such thing as a private subdivision," he said. "When you build subdivisions, even when you build your house, the government is there because of the National Building Code. We must enforce this because safety is the main concern." Fernando, an engineer, was mayor of Marikina City for three terms.

"We should take out this attitude that we are the absolute rulers of our homes," he added.

Among Fernando's other plans to solve the traffic problem is increasing the width of bus lanes along major thoroughfares. "We can decrease the lanes of automobiles because they are small anyway," he said.

As for the color-coding scheme, "as much as possible, let's take it out," he said. People who have to stay home on days when their vehicles are banned from the streets become "unproductive," he pointed out.

FERNANDO. He says vehicles should also be parked in garages, not in the streets. FILE PHOTO

PAGDAGDAGAN. His questions now have answers, he says. JESS YUSON

# Formerly bitter man now playing a different tune

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez
*Contributor*

TALES OF THE CITY

*AKO'Y may katanungan sa aking isipan*
*kung bakit ako'y may kapansanan*
*Hindi ko alam ang tunay na dahilan*
*Di ko rin ninais ang aking kapalaran*
(I have a question in my mind
Why do I have this disability
I don't know the reason why
And I never wanted this fate).

So goes a song written by Danilo Don Pagdagdagan, 23. The song echoes the pains of people with physical disabilities like him.

Bitter would be an understatement in describing how a boy who was born physically challenged felt toward his parents who abandoned him even before they could answer the questions that filled his mind.

FORMERLY/ A22

# Dad wants Manila to be Singapore's spitting image

By Jerome Aning

CAN Manila do a spit-and-polish act like Singapore and effectively prohibit spitting in public?

According to a councilor's proposal, any person who spits or expectorates in parks, streets, sidewalks, overpasses, underpasses, other public places and even inside public utility vehicles would be fined P500.

Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing said if his bill becomes a law, it would be a challenge to the city government's "Buhayin ang Maynila" urban renewal program.

DAD WANTS/ A22

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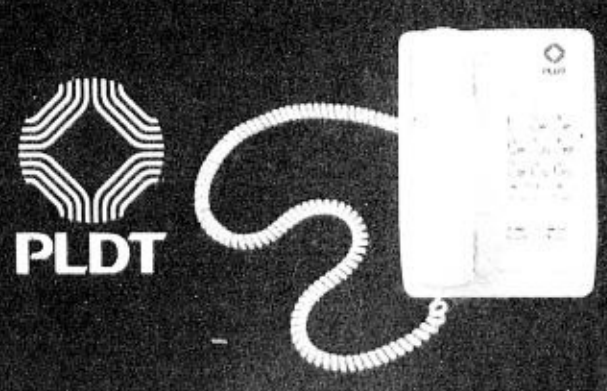

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## METROBRIEFS

### Korean ambushed in Ermita

SOUTH Korean businessman Jang Sung-lee, 39, was shot dead while he and his family were walking back to their hotel in Ermita, Manila, late Friday night. Witnesses said two men on a motorcycle shot Jang eight times. The Korean was pronounced dead at the Manila Doctors Hospital, said SPO1 Virgo Villareal of the Manila Police. Jang, his wife Pearl Anne de Guzman, and their young son had dinner at the Diamond Tea House and were walking back to the Hotel Pan Pacific when the motorcycle blocked their path at the corner of Mabini and Dr. Quintos streets at 10:40 p.m., police said. A witness told police one of the men drew a handgun and shot the victim eight times. Police are coordinating with South Korean embassy officials in the investigation of Jang's death. *Jerome Aning*

### Inmate dies in city jail

ROLANDO Bojo, 21, an inmate of the Manila City Jail, died of a sudden illness yesterday morning, said SPO1 Ernesto Jose Jr. of the Manila Police. Bojo, in jail for robbery, complained of chest pains and difficulty in breathing at 2:45 a.m. He was first taken to the MCJ infirmary, then to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz where he died at 7:50 a.m. SPO1 Jose believed the victim died of cardiac arrest. *Jerome Aning*

### Boy stabbed in Taguig

ORAK Abdul Basi, 3, got in the way of two arguing men and was stabbed in the neck yesterday in Taguig. Basi, of IRM Compound in Lower Bicutan, Taguig, died while being treated at the Taguig-Pateros District Hospital, said Chief Insp. Abdul Wahab Karamuddin, Taguig Police Station 2 commander. Investigators said Basi's uncle, Muktar Atmad, was arguing with Jimmy Nor, 32, when Nor pulled out a knife about 10 a.m. Nor charged at Atmad, who managed to dodge the thrust, and accidentally stabbed the boy who was sitting beside his uncle. *Alcuin Papa*

### Beaten to death in Sampaloc

GABRIEL Navarro, 29, a suspected snatcher and member of the Batang City Jail gang, was beaten to death when he tried to grab the cell phone of a woman on Nicanor Reyes (formerly Morayta) Street in front of the Far Eastern University Hospital, police said. When Navarro, of Parola Compound in Tondo, Manila, allegedly tried to snatch the woman's cell phone about 3:30 p.m., the woman's male companion hit Navarro in the head. When Navarro's friends across the street tried to help him, the woman's companion screamed that he was "not yet finished" with Navarro. Navarro's friends bolted, and left him on the pavement. The unidentified man kicked Navarro and dropped a large adobe block on his head and chest, killing him on the spot. The couple was last seen walking toward España Street. SPO1 Villareal said whoever killed the suspected snatcher will be charged with murder. *Jerome Aning*

### Shot in Tondo

ROGELIO Mananquil, 17, was killed in a brawl among drunken men in Tondo, Manila Friday night. Mananquil, of San Leonardo Street, Tondo, was shot twice in the chest and died at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, said SPO1 David Tuazon, of the Manila Police. The boy and his four companions were drinking beer at the corner of Recto Avenue and San Clemente Street when they got into a quarrel with another group of drinkers across the street about 10 p.m. Mananquil started to throw empty bottles at the other group, who threw back stones and bottles, police said. This went on for several minutes until shots rang out. Police are now looking for two young men who were seen drawing handguns and firing at Mananquil. *Jerome Aning*

### Suicide in Malabon

JEEPNEY driver Reynaldo Dionisio Jr., 47, allegedly took his own life inside his house on Hernandez Street, Catmon, Malabon City Thursday night, police said. Dionisio's wife Celia found him dead about 11 p.m. in their bedroom, said PO2 Redentor Mantala, Jr. Celia told police that when Dionisio arrived home from work, he immediately went to their bedroom. When she entered their bedroom, she said she was shocked to see him hanging from the ceiling. *Tina Santos*

### Knife duel in Manila

VENDOR Celso Castro, 48, stabbed dead his drinking buddy, Antolin Malto, during a knife duel in Manila Thursday night. The duel was about the P5 that Malto refused to give to Castro, said Detective Raul Olavario of the Western Police District. Police said Castro, Malto and their friends were drinking on Leon Guinto Street near the corner of J. Escoda in Ermita when the two men started to argue about the money about 4 p.m. The two men soon took out knives and began to stab each other repeatedly, police said. Severely wounded, Malto managed to walk to the nearby Philippine General Hospital where he died, Olavario said. Castro was treated in the same hospital, Olavario added. *Philip Tubeza*

### Fallen in Pasig City

NICOLAS Morales, 20, fell to his death in Pasig City after he slipped from the roof of his four-story house Thursday night, police said.
Morales, a resident of Asmolo Compound on Ylaya Street, Buting, Pasig City, was pronounced dead at the Rizal Medical Center. Police said Morales was fixing the leaking roof of their house during a heavy downpour when he lost his footing and fell to his death. *Nelson Flores*

# Ativan boss identified by 4 foreign victims

**By Alcuin Papa**

CHARGES of robbery will be filed against the suspected leader of the Ativan Gang who was arrested in Laguna on Friday.

Insp. Alejandro Alisangco, head of the Makati City Police's theft and robbery section, told the INQUIRER that lawmen would file the charges against Rodrigo Fabricante before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office tomorrow.

Alisangco said four foreigners positively identified Fabricante as the man who drugged and robbed them in Makati City last month.

"The four victims have appeared before us and pointed to Fabricante as the suspect who victimized them," Alisangco said.

The foreigners—Japanese Shuhei Uichida, New Zealander Peter Holyoeke, Frenchman Michel Hennequin and American photographer Corulus Julius Kuntze—have already submitted their sworn statements to the police.

Alisangco revealed that Uichida recovered his expensive Omega watch from Fabricante.

The suspect is also facing robbery with homicide charges before a Marikina court for the death of South Korean diplomat Chung Young-ho.

The body of Chung was found last June 7 in Marikina Heights. Autopsy showed that he choked to death.

Fabricante admitted to police he abducted Chung, but said the Korean's death was unintentional.

Kuntze, 70, from Utah, told police that on May 22, while he was waiting for a taxi near the Makati Cinema Square, Fabricante approached him and introduced himself as an executive of Chinabank. After drinking a can of orange juice, Kuntze fell unconscious and awoke the next day in a hospital in Muntinlupa.

Holyoeke was found unconscious by two street vendors on Jupiter Street in Makati City on June 8.

Hennequin and Uichida were abducted at the Glorietta shopping center in Makati on June 9. An unconscious Hennequin was found in Dasmariñas, Cavite, while Uichida woke up near the San Juan Medical Center.

Ativan Gang members usually target foreigners on the street. They befriend their victims before they offer them juice drinks spiked with tranquilizers. When the victims pass out, the gang members rob them.

Police are still looking for Fabricante's accomplice, Arturo Herrera.

JESS YUSON

**SIGNING UP**
**A woman signs a petition in Sta. Cruz, Manila calling for the abolition of the power purchase agreement which has jacked up the price of electricity.**

## 2 kidnapped men found alive

A MEMBER of the Filipino Chinese community and his Filipino driver who were kidnapped were recovered alive in Muntinlupa last Thursday, according to sketchy police reports.

It was not immediately known if ransom was paid for the release of the Filipino Chinese, whose name was not released to media but who is said to be 40 to 45 years old. It was also not known whether he was able to escape from his captors or was released.

He was found at about 11 p.m. last Thursday in his silver gray Hyundai Super Grace van at the DBP Compound on Arandia Street in Tunasan, Muntinlupa, police said.

No other details were available on the identity of the two men. Nor were details available on the circumstances of their abduction, except that three armed men took them. *Alcuin Papa*

# Munti roads less congested due to new scheme, says vice mayor

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

IF THE city government is to be believed, traffic in Muntinlupa has been eased by 30-40 percent in the past two weeks with the implementation of a new scheme proposed by the Confederation of Truckers Associations of the Philippines (CTAP).

The program authorized trucks weighing less than 20 tons to use the shaky Alabang viaduct as long as they have passes which are issued at the entrance to the South Luzon expressway.

"Initial findings show that traffic congestion has been down by 30 to 40 percent during the test run of the proposed scheme," said Vice Mayor Jo-Jason Alcaraz.

Alcaraz said he would meet with representatives of the city's traffic department, the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), and CTAP to determine if the local government would continue to implement the traffic plan pending the rehabilitation of the viaduct.

But the vice mayor pointed out that continuing the scheme would only temporarily solve the traffic problem. "The long-term solution is for the PNCC to rehabilitate the viaduct as soon as possible," he said.

The CTAP proposed the plan late last month as a temporary solution to the city's worsening traffic problem caused by the ban on trucks on the viaduct. The ban was the PNCC's response to fears that the 24-year-old elevated structure might collapse soon. The move resulted in big traffic jams at the Alabang interchange right under the viaduct.

To help ease the congestion, the city banned all trucks from the streets of Muntinlupa between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily. This drew heavy criticism from the CTAP, which threatened to mobilize all of its 5,000 trucks to block all entrances and exits in the city.

Alcaraz suspended the truck ban and gave the go-signal for the CTAP proposal.

## SJ starts three-day celebration

SAN Juan town yesterday started its three-day celebration of the feast of its patron saint, St. John the Baptist.

Mayor J.V. Ejercito said this is the first time the town is holding a three-day celebration in honor of St. John the Baptist.

"Our celebration of the Feast of St. John the Baptist for 2002 shall be another first in my administration as the chief executive of this historic town," Ejercito said. "This is the first time that we will have a three-day fiesta."

Ejercito is also the overall committee chair for the 2002 fiesta.

The fiesta is a joint effort of the San Juan municipal government and the St. John the Baptist Parish. It started with a procession of the images of St. John the Baptist, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary after yesterday's 6 p.m. Mass at the Pinaglabanan Church.

A vintage and sports car motorcade and exhibit will be held this morning at the Pinaglabanan Shrine grounds. The motorcade will begin at 8 a.m. and will pass through the Greenhills Shopping Center and end at the Plaza ng San Juan on N. Domingo Street.

Councilor Dante Santiago, project chair and first vice chair of Fiesta 2002 committee, said the motorcade and exhibit will feature the oldest running vintage and sports cars in the country, particularly the 1928 A. Tudor Sedan owned by Romy Lupena and the 1947 MGTC of Ruben Silvestre.

The Mayor's Cup basketball and volleyball championship games will be held today from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the San Juan Gymnasium.

An evening concert by Side A Band at the Plaza ng Masa will cap today's celebration. Comedian John Lapus and the Sexbomb Dancers will also perform.

Tomorrow, "Eat Bulaga Live sa San Juan" will feature a live telecast of the noontime TV show from Plaza ng San Juan. It will be followed by street dancing and the "Battle of Drum and Lyre Bands." *Nelson F. Flores*

# Formerly bitter man now playing a different tune

From page A21

Pagdagdagan, or Dondon, never ran out of questions the moment he realized he was different from other children his age. Why was I born like this? Why did they leave me? Why are they treating me like this? Why me?

By the time he was 9, he was only starting to get up on his feet but with the aid of crutches and help from other people. Afflicted by cerebral palsy (CP), an in-born neurological condition that affects the person's central nervous system, Dondon could hardly move around and was confined to his bed most of the time until he was 9. Though his condition was considered mild for people with CP, he did not have a normal life.

**'Different'**

He could not find other children who were patient enough to let him join in their games. Worse, schools refused to admit him because he was "different."

Still, he was able to graduate from a public elementary school. He tried to apply at Makati West (now Makati Science) High School but school administrators said they did not have facilities for "special students" like him. He was turned down.

His disability prevented him from enrolling in schools far from his home. He was completely dependent on his caregivers because he could hardly walk and could not take a ride without a companion.

"I got frustrated," he said. "I lost interest in my studies because there was no school near our home willing to accept me."

Dondon was the product of an illicit affair. His parents Danny and Araceli abandoned him shortly after his birth, leaving him in the care of his paternal grandparents.

"I lived a bitter life," he said. "I cursed my parents because they abandoned me. They were the ones who sinned yet I suffered the consequences."

Born Nov. 8, 1978 in San Andres Bukid, Manila, he was raised by his grandparents Adelaida and Victor Pagdagdagan.

"They were the ones who showered me with love and filled the void my parents left in my life," he said.

Despite the loving care and understanding of his grandparents, his mind was still filled with questions. It was not until 1989 that he started to see the light at the end of what seemed to be the dark tunnel of his life.

**Born again**

"I was at the lowest point in my life when an uncle shared with me about Jesus, how He would put order into our lives if we just put our trust in Him," Dondon said.

Soon, he was into bible study and became active in Jesus is Alive Community, a born-again Christian fellowship which his uncle, Jose Pagdagdagan, attended regularly.

"I found comfort in Jesus," Dondon said.

As he poured his attention into studying the Word of God, the bitterness went away little by little. Soon, hope, love and forgiveness replaced it.

"My outlook started to change," he said. "I realized that a life without Christ, even if you are physically able, is somehow a wasted life."

For one, he realized that sufferings are not exclusive to people with disabilities. Even able-bodied people also endure hardships.

For the first time, he began to plan for his future and regained interest in studying. But because of his difficulty in walking, he had to study at home and spent most of his time reading books.

**Music**

He also found himself more and more involved in the music ministry in his church, as well as in evangelism and youth ministries. He became a volunteer in the Cerebral Palsy Association of the Philippines, where he had had therapy since he was 6.

In 1997, he became interested in composing mostly Christian songs. To date, he has written at least 60 songs, most of which are now sung in his church.

In 1999, he won first prize in Sining '99, a song-writing contest for people with disabilities, for his composition "Aking Katanungan."

The song is the lament of a person born with disability over people's lack of love and understanding.

"A friend dared me to ask the Lord why I have this disability," Dondon said of his award-winning song. "It also seemed to be a question in general for people going through painful experiences."

**The answer**

Dondon now believes that the only answer to all the problems in this world is Jesus.

"Why is there suffering," he asked. "Why are there cruel people, or graft and corruption, or killings? Because people don't have Jesus in their lives."

Like the chorus in his song says, Dondon believes that if only people would look heavenwards, there would be less suffering.

"Whether disabled or not, people should put their hope in Jesus and not in people, because people fail but He does not," Dondon said.

Now Dondon walks and moves around all by himself, with only a metal cane for support. He just finished a crash course in music at the University of Sto. Tomas. He now goes to a computer school.

Dondon hopes that God will someday use him to help and inspire other people, especially those with physical disabilities.

# Dad wants . . .

From page A21

"Spitting in public shows is an utter disrespect for other people, especially those who value cleanliness and a clean environment," the fourth district councilor said.

He said spitting in public is "a very unsanitary and unhygienic act which can spread diseases like tuberculosis."

He said most progressive and highly urbanized and civilized cities in the world have anti-spitting laws in effect and in force.

"Spitting in public should be treated with the same disgust as littering in public," he said.

The police, barangay authorities and other city officials will be tasked to implement the anti-spitting measure if it becomes a law.

Bagatsing's bill is the latest in a series of proposed ordinances filed by Manila councilors that emulate laws in Singapore. The Southeast Asian city-state is notorious for harsh laws penalizing spitting, vandalism, failure to flush public toilets, even chewing bubble gum in public.

Manila councilors have proposed laws banning the use of cell phones during public gatherings and while driving, the installation of bunting without permission, swimming in the Pasig River, hunting birds, and selling or keeping poached endangered species.

Bagatsing said that aside from instilling discipline, laws that govern public conduct are meant to "bring back dignity and love for the city."

# New animation series airs on ABC 5

AN internationally acclaimed animation show now airs on local TV.

Presented by Philippine Animation Studio, Inc. (Pasi) and its independent resources management and marketing partner, Ventureslink International, Inc., the Pasi cartoon show will be a sure hit among cartoon-lovers who love animation bursting with action, fun and total excitement.

Highlighting the show are "Kong, the Animated Series" and "Biker Mice from Mars." The one-hour animation airs Saturdays, 5 to 6 p.m. on ABC 5.

Behind the cartoons are veteran Filipino animators, from layout to digital composite.

Pasi, which was founded in 1990, is the largest independent animation studio in the country specializing in animation art. The company has been named as one of the top 10 animation studios in the world by Animation Magazine.

Pasi has produced and co-produced award-winning animations released internationally. These include "X-Men," "The Mask," "T-Rex," "Committed, Bob and Margaret," "Roswell Conspiracies," "Angelina Ballerina," "Kampung Boy" and the two newest cartoons.

Recently, "Bob and Margaret" and "Kong, the Animated Series" have rated No. 1 in the international market.

Pasi has been widely recognized in the global cartoon scene, taking centerstage in several award festivals.

The company romped off in the 1999 Annecy Film Festival, taking the first prize for best TV series category for its "Kampung Boy" series.

Pasi also bagged the best primetime series at the 2001 World Animation Celebration for "Bob and Margaret," the silver plaque at the Chicago Film Festival for "War Babies" and the 7 D'or for "Kong, the Animated Series" in France.


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CHRIS ROCK
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EDWARD BURNS
R-TIME: 1:43 RATING: PG-13
Date: June 24 & 25, 2002
THEATERS:
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'UTANG NI TATANG'

# An extended cruel joke

By Pau Araos
*Contributor*

REVIEW

WRITER-DIRECTOR Jon Red has a lot to live up to. His brother, filmmaker Raymond Red ("Sakay," "Bayani," "Anino"), casts a very large shadow that Jon needs to get out from under.

Unfortunately, it is doubtful that "Utang ni Tatang" will make a name for Raymond Red's brother. "Utang" is Red's feature follow-up to his short film "Still Lives," as well as his entry in the Manila Film Festival.

After a decade of separation, a group of old friends (Ronnie Lazaro, Joel Torre and Jeffrey Quizon) is reunited by a tip that would lead them to the whereabouts of a mysterious man whom they refer to as "Tatang." Apparently, Tatang owes them for something that happened years ago and it is time to collect. We follow these "debt collectors" cross-country. Along the way they meet different characters and are faced with their past which makes them think about their future.

Quizon is Ricky/Kado, a con artist who has left a life of crime to drive a jeep for a living. Lazaro is Al, who refuses to leave the past behind and neglects his life in the process. Torre is Mike, who is able to escape his tumultuous past by finding solace in his family. All three men were willing to drop everything to find Tatang and make him pay for whatever he did in the past. All three men are different variations of the Everyman in Philippine society. Unfortunately, all three are also ill-conceived, incomplete and uninteresting.

### On the road

Two-thirds of the movie is based on a man-on-the-road plot structure similar to the one used by movies like "Dogma," "U-Turn," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," "Thelma & Louise," and even Homer's Odyssey. The problem with the structure is that the scriptwriter bears the burden of constructing strong, interesting characters so that the audience will tag along, wild goose chase or not.

Lazaro, who plays the least engaging of the three characters, does his best to make sense of a paper-thin character. His intense wide-eye stares seem out of place in a movie that's supposed to be a comedy. But who can blame him? All he has to go on is the fact that his character is angry about whatever happened in the past, but neither the actor nor the audience is given any clue as to what that is.

Quizon, being in a comedy movie, overacts with such gusto that it's almost forgivable. Having seen his work in "Radyo," "Markova: Comfort Gay" and several TV sitcoms, one could come to the conclusion that he has a lot to prove before he deserves the respect that his lineage grants him. And he knows it.

Still, he has his moments. Perhaps a better script can give Quizon a chance to prove himself.

### Voice of reason

Torre plays the most conflicted man in the movie. He has the most to lose since he is the one who has anything that resembles a life. He holds a steady, albeit low-paying job. He has a wife and a son that gives him a reason to wake up everyday.

Early on in the movie, when given the chance to pay back Tatang for what he did, he refuses for fear of complicating his life. All throughout the movie, we see him questioning their mission and if it would be better to leave the past behind. He is the voice of reason among the debt collectors, and, with the longest screen time, the one that the audience can most easily relate to.

With the weight of the movie on this character's shoulders, it should have been logical to give him more depth. But there are no quirks or mannerisms to make Torre's Mike compelling, unique or memorable.

Again, we can give Red the benefit of the doubt by arguing that maybe he made Mike's character malleable so it will be open to interpretation. Still, his character should have been interesting enough to give the audience a handle by which to grasp the movie.

### Less cohesive

The remaining third of the movie is reminiscent of Samuel Beckett's play, "Waiting for Godot." In the play, several characters are unable to move from a specific place because they are waiting for Godot. As they wait, they contemplate the merits of committing suicide, eating carrots and gnawing on chicken bones.

It is an ambitious tactic and, had it been executed correctly, would have made for a strong ending for "Utang." Unfortunately, like the first two-thirds of the film, this final act needs strong characters to work. Red, in trying to be vague and open-ended, only succeeded in making the movie less cohesive.

In an attempt to explain his motives, Red littered the movie with a recurring theme that roughly translates to this: It's not the destination but the journey that counts.

At the start of the movie, one character tells an old joke about a red hat. The audience is told a story about a son who asks his father for a red hat every year for his birthday. Though the father is confused by his son's request, he gives his son a red hat every year. Finally, when the son has grown old, his father can't stand it any longer and forces his son to explain why he keeps on asking for a red hat. The joke ends with either the father or the son dying before the reason is disclosed and the audience is left dumbfounded.

### Extended version

It's a cruel joke, one that is appreciated only by the one telling the joke.

In more ways than one, the movie is just an extended version of this joke. There is a beginning, a rising action, but no conclusion. We never find out what Tatang owed our lead characters, and with a lack of reasons for us to care about it, we just let it go at the movie's end.

'Always, the character telling the story or joke keeps on insisting that it's not the ending that matters but the process of telling. In an almost apologetic manner, Red makes sure that the audience gets this message by repeating it over and over again in different forms and mutations.

Unfortunately, like the joke, this is mostly appreciated by the one telling it.

Red has a good eye. A simple act of placing an electric fan above a sleeping boy's head animates the immobile form while maintaining the still quality of the shot.

It is his scriptwriting that needs work. Still, it is too early to write him off; he has a lot of potential. Here's hoping that as he gains experience and confidence, he can also hone his craft enough to crawl out from under his brother's shadow.

SWEET 18. Kristine Hermosa prefers the conventional courtship.

# Kristine fears over-exposure

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

*Leah Salterio*

**KRISTINE Hermosa** is having jitters now that "Forevermore," where she stars with her TV leading man **Jericho Rosales**, is about to be shown.

This is the first movie that Kristine and Jericho have to carry on their own. Their TV love team may have attracted a big following in the primetime tele-series, "Pangako sa 'Yo," but Kristine knows a movie is a very different thing altogether.

"We're on TV everyday and fans might no longer want to watch us on the big screen," she reasons out. "Others might think we're over-exposed. That's why I'm worried."

"Forevermore" is also Kristine's biggest break in the movies. In the past, she merely played support (to **Cesar Montano** in "Hostage") or co starred with other young stars (in "Trip").

The trailer of "Forevermore" is appealing not only to avid Kristine-Jericho fans but also to anyone who loves a feel-good movie. The story is a light romance about childhood friends who meet each other again as young adults.

It marks the directorial debut of 32-year-old **John-D Lazatin**.

"The chemistry of Kristine and Jericho is honest and very believable," Lazatin notes. "When fans see Kristine without Jericho, they always look for him, and vice versa. They're good friends and they know each other well. That's their magic. So making them fall in love in a movie wasn't really hard anymore."

The chemistry of the young love team indeed goes beyond the TV cameras because in real life, Kristine and Jericho are indeed very close to each other.

Eighteen-year-old Kristine admits she has yet to get romantically involved with any guy. But if she does get into a relationship, she sees herself having Jericho (whom she calls "Echo") for her boyfriend.

"All the time we were doing the movie, he was always making *pahaging* that he would court me," she shares. "It's not hard to like someone like Jericho. We always talk even when we're not working together. He comes to me for advice. I know everything about him. He's been very open with me from the start."

She insists she prefers the conventional courtship, with the guy going to the girl's house, even serenading her.

"I don't think there is anything more romantic than that," she maintains.

The two share another passion, aside from acting. They're also into photography. Jericho recently gave Kristine a professional Pentax camera.

"I love taking pictures of nature," Kristine says. "I also take Echo's pictures in different poses."

If her schedule will allow, Kristine wants to finish high school and then go abroad to take up fine arts or business management.

"I know I can't be in show biz forever," she says. "I intend to act for a long time, but it's better to have a college degree to fall back on."

### For Dino's sake

A FEW days ago, I received a phone call in the office from **Sonia Ferreros**, who said she is the mother of actor **Dino Guevarra**. She later sent me a letter (via courier) with photos of her and her children.

Ms Ferreros lamented that Dino has not had acting jobs for several months now after his erstwhile girlfriend, **Monica Gonzales**, accused him of abandoning their two kids. Dino and Monica met in April 1995 while shooting the movie "Roller Boys," where they both played supporting roles.

Early this year, Monica filed a formal complaint against Dino before the Makati prosecutor's office, alleging that the actor refused to give financial support for their children. She said the court granted her petition for child support in 1999 and ordered Dino to give P6,000 monthly for his older child. But since September 2000, Monica said, Dino has not been complying with the court order.

But Ms Ferreros said Dino agreed to pay for the education of his eldest son, **Ethan**, now 4 years old.

The actor, whose real name is **Dino Ross**, was last seen in "Anna Karenina," the now-defunct weekly soap series on GMA 7 where he was paired with his new girlfriend, **Kim de los Santos**.

"I want to help Dino," Ms Ferreros said. "He is a very good son. He's been good to us. I want to see him on TV again."

Ms Ferreros said Dino is the youngest of her nine children, but is also the most generous.

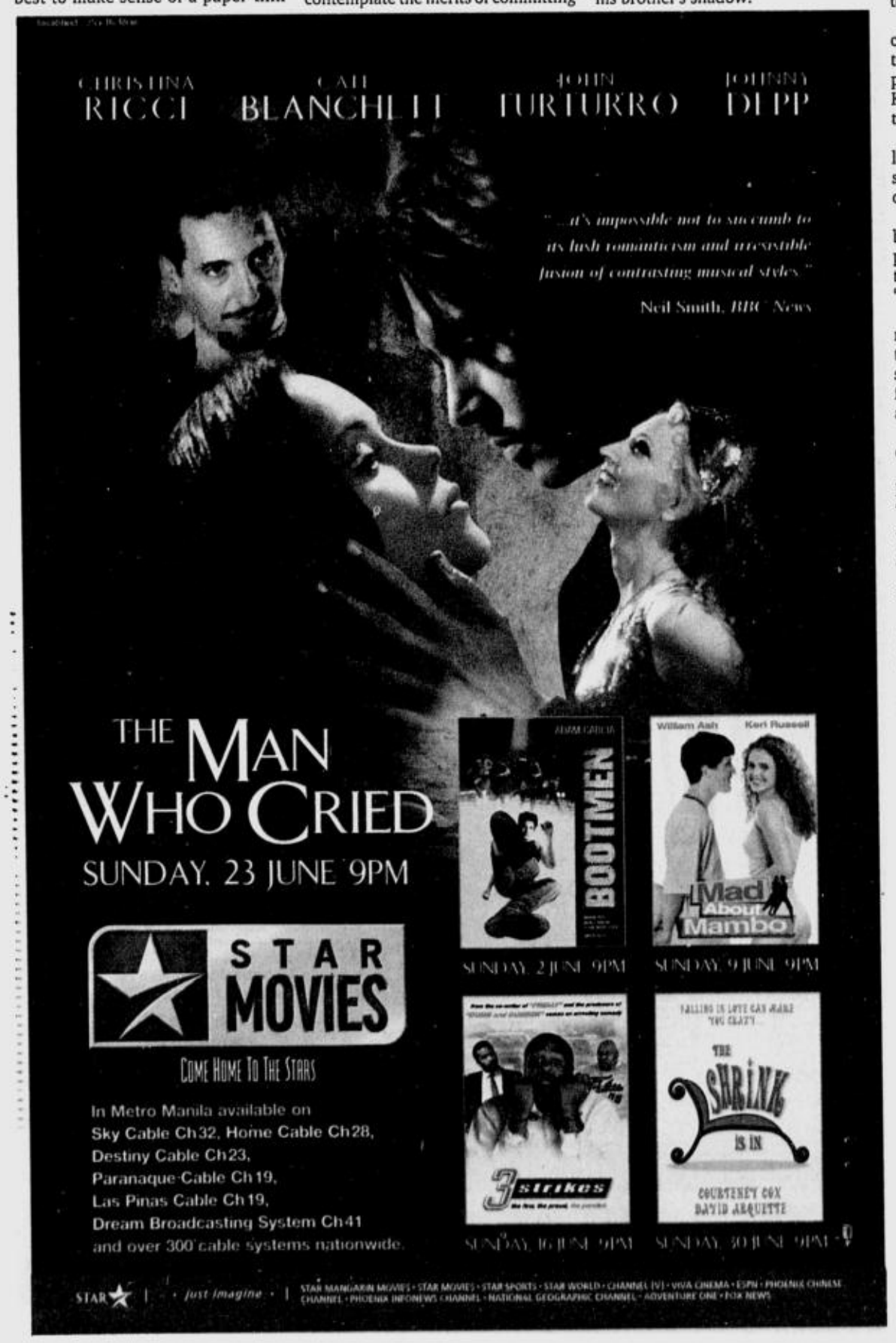
"Every Christmas, he would play Santa Claus to his nephews and nieces," she said of Dino. "He also took us to several places for vacation, like Subic and Cebu. He has been very good to the whole family."

"GOOD SON." Dino Guevarra.

Ms Ferreros is optimistic that producers, as well as the fans, will give Dino a second chance in show biz.

"I hope his fans will accept him again," she said. "I want him to be in the limelight again. We're proud that he is in show biz. Dino is not a bad person. Whatever he did in the past, he has already asked forgiveness for it."

Ms Ferreros added Dino is now happy with Kim because "she knows how to take care of him."



# Murder by gender

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

**SANDRA Bullock**'s new starrer, "Murder by Numbers," is a new take-off on the **Leopold-Loeb** thrill-murder case of the 1920s. It isn't as good as the 1959 movie on the same case, "Compulsion," but it has its own good things going for it.

Its best suit is its theme, which provocatively states that the wealthy, young thrill killers were motivated not just by evil but also by ennui, not to mention a perversely macho view of women as playthings that can be pushed around, sneered at, sexually exploited, debased—and casually killed.

Thus our observation: "Murder by Numbers" is actually murder by gender, as perpetrated by young men whose lives and values have been fatally compromised by their wealth and brilliance.

As wealthy scions, they have been brought up with all the material perks in the world, but without love. Their parents have been so busy making money and serving as civic leaders that they neglected their children.

The two young killers have grown up so unloved that they feel absolutely no affection, not even pity, for people whom they regard to be their inferiors—and that includes all women.

Thus, it becomes exceedingly easy for them to trifle with women's feelings, and even to sadistically hurt them, both psychologically and physically.

Their vaunted brilliance is also a problem. The two killers are so bright that they feel they can plan and execute the perfect crime. Even when they're caught, they think they can talk their way out of the stickiest situation, since the cops and just about everybody else are too dumb to catch on.

Alas, they don't count on the investigators played by Bullock and **Ben Chaplin**. Bullock is herself a walking psychological basket case, having been treated brutally by her own husband, many years ago. Chaplin is healthier psychologically, but is astute enough to see through the killers' brilliant roses.

Together, Bullock and Chaplin make a terrific investigative team, despite the fact that they keep getting on each other's nerves.

MURDER/ A26

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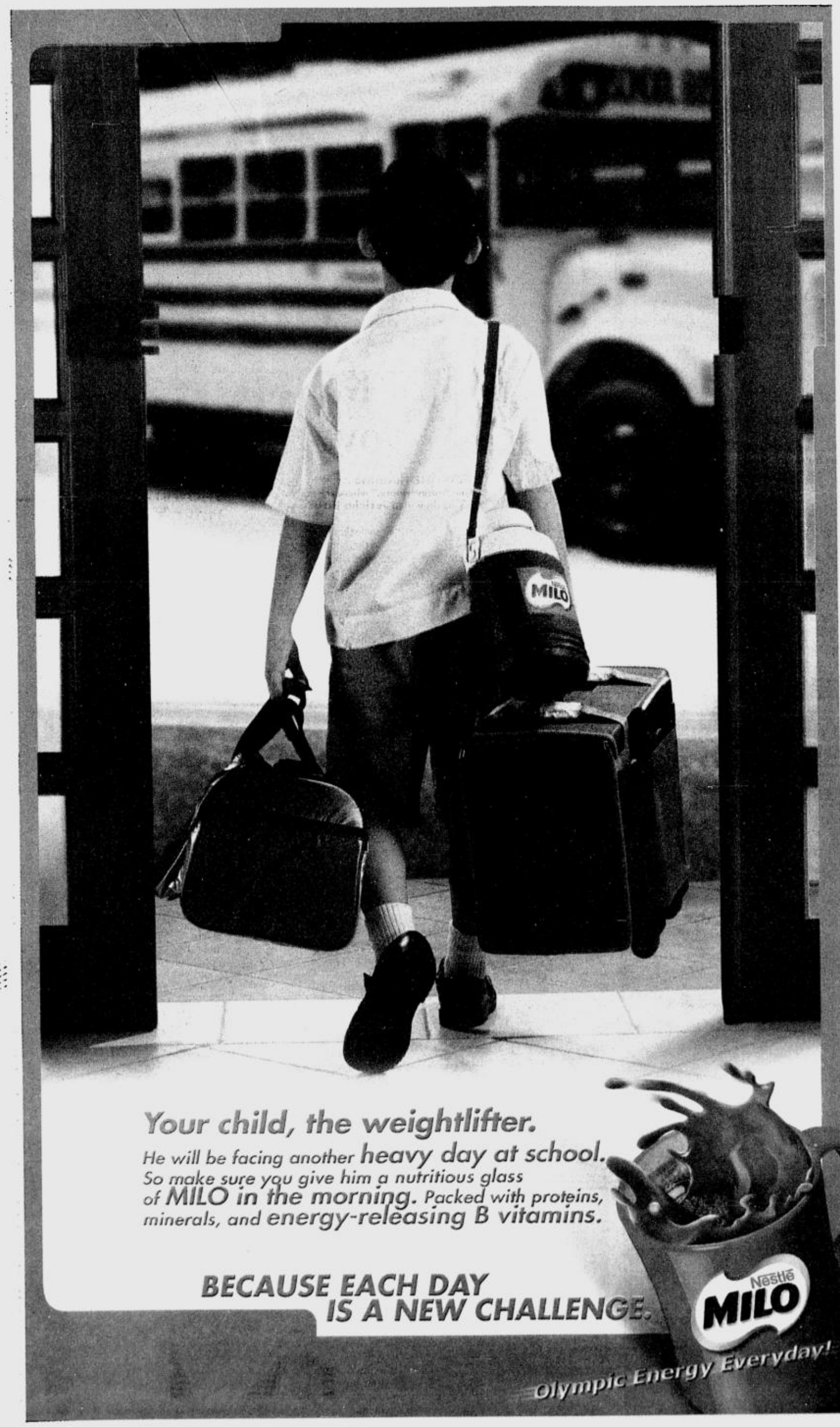


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# Murder by gender

From page A25

At first, the smartypants killers do run circles around the investigators. But Bullock eventually discovers the benefit of recalling her own traumatic experience, the better for her to understand and crack this new case.

Her decision to deal with her own trauma takes a big toll on her, but it turns out to be a win-win move in the end, because she's able to get to the core of her own psychological problems, aside from solving the case.

As for the killers, they get their comeuppance, belatedly realize that women should not be used and abused, and learn that brilliance and wealth aren't everything. Those realizations come too late in the day for them, but not for the women who would have become their future victims.

On point of performance, Chaplin is a more compelling actor than Bullock. But she manages to be more interestingly textured here than in her recent screen outings.

But both stars are nicely upstaged by the young actors who play the killers. If ice-cold looks could kill, after watching their performances, we'd all be dead.

### Top dog

Warner Bros.' "Scooby-Doo" stunned Hollywood pundits last week when it opened with a sensational $56.4 million box-office gross during its first three days of release. That's the biggest June debut ever, and the third-best opening weekend thus far this year, after "Spider-man" and "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the clones."

Why the great showing? The film's success is attributed to its having something for all age groups: a kid-friendly story, a cast that's appealing to teens and twentysomethings, and a nostalgia factor for those over 30 years old.

The previous June record-holder was "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me," which grossed $52.8 million in three days in 1998.

"Scooby-Doo" stars **Freddie Prinze, Jr.**, **Sarah Michelle Gellar** and **Mathew Lillard**. Its title character is computer-generated, but blends in well with the production's live action. **Rowan Atkinson** ("Mr. Bean") plays a special featured role.


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| 2 A WALK TO REMEMBER | 2 SUM OF ALL FEARS | 2 SUM OF ALL FEARS | 2 SUM OF ALL FEARS 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 | 2 SCOOBY DOO |
| 3 MAGKAPATID | 3 SUM OF ALL FEARS 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 | 3 SCOOBY DOO | 3 MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 | 3 SCOOBY DOO |
| 4 SCOOBY DOO | 4 MONSTER'S BALL | MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 28 & 29 | 4 MONSTER'S BALL 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 | 4 A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| | 5 SCOOBY DOO | | 5 A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 | 5 MONSTER'S BALL |
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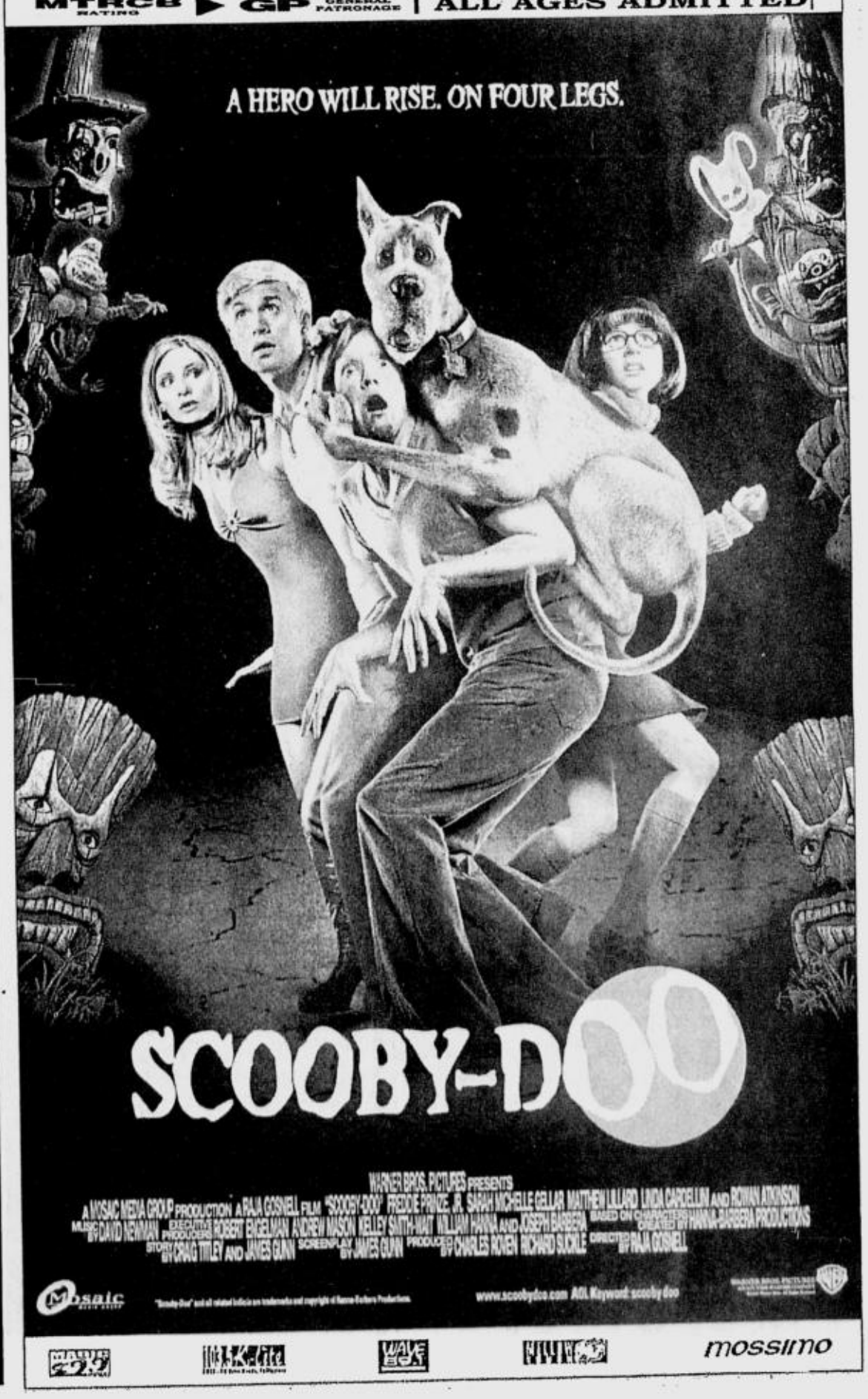


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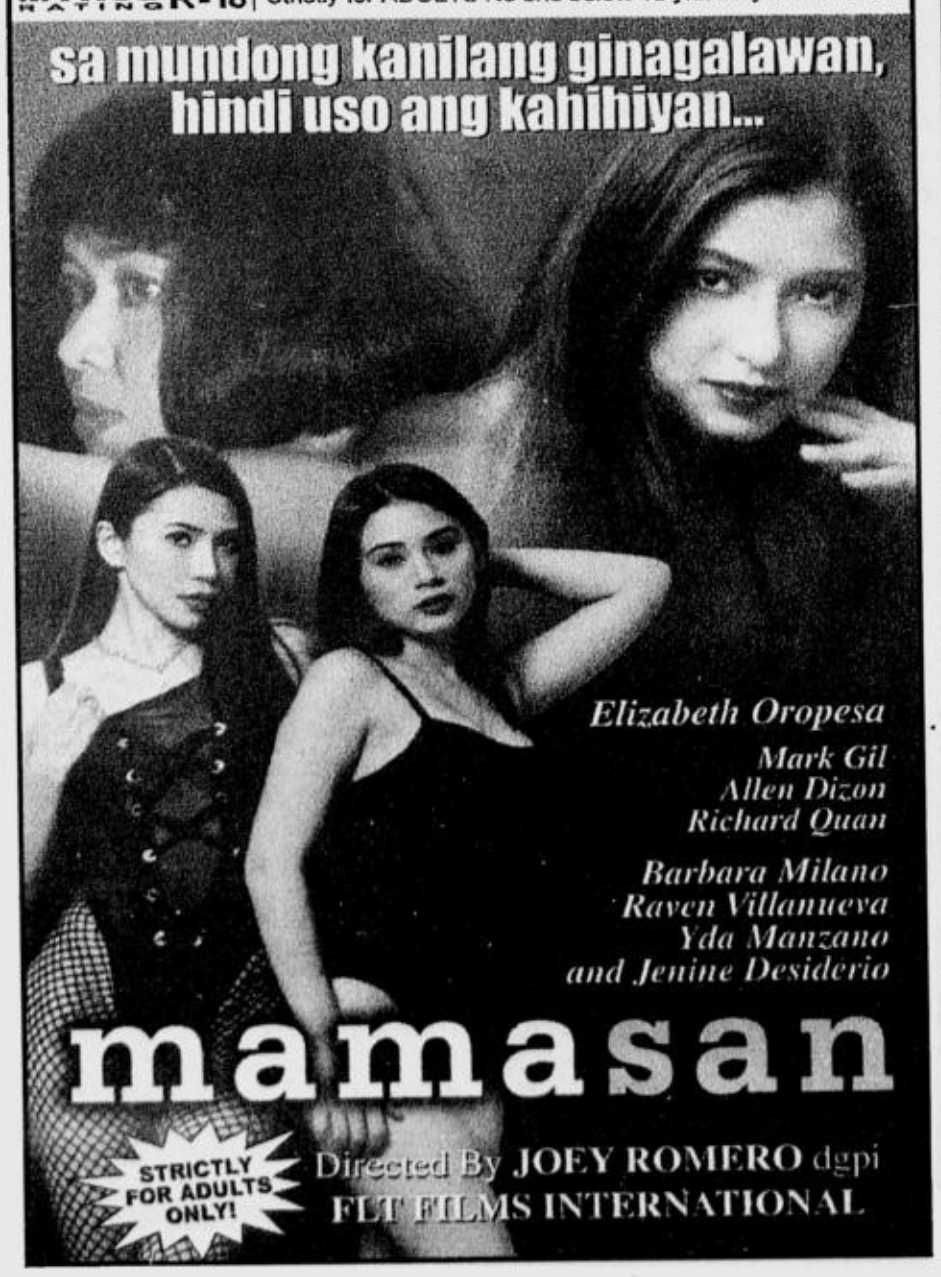


# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

# Exit Roces, enter Marilen who?

By Marinel R. Cruz

*MALACAÑANG'S announcement last Monday of the removal of Alejandro Roces as chief of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board has received mixed reactions from the entertainment industry.*

*Roces has since been appointed to the board of directors of the Philippine Postal Savings Bank board of director. President Macapagal-Arroyo had named him to the MTRCB last year after its chair, Nicanor Tiongson, resigned last year amid the controversy over Joey Javier Reyes' "Live Show."*

*Roces early on got the ire of many show biz people when he supported Ms Macapagal's ban of the film. He even called "Live Show" pornographic.*

*While many show biz people criticise the government for Roces' unceremonious release, they also hope that the new MTRCB leadership will be able to help get the ailing film industry back on its feet.*

*What do show biz people think of the Roces removal, his replacement, Marilen Dinglasan, and of the industry? Almost all in the merry mix below say they don't know Dinglasan.*

"I feel that what happened to Roces was so humiliating. Whoever was responsible for his sudden removal should apologize. You don't just do that to a person. He should have been notified first.

"It's hard to tell if he had been an effective MTRCB chair. From what I heard through the grapevine, he wasn't really an active chair, it's his executive directors who were running the board.

"What I can say is that Alejandro Roces is a decent man.

"I don't know Marilen Dinglasan as a person. I wish her all the luck. It's a tough job. I hope she succeeds. I wish she would take a good look at PD 1986, which created the MTRCB, and understand it so she could help the movie industry achieve full regulation. It's okay if she turns out to be someone conservative, *huwag lang sana siyang* bigot." ***Armida Siguion-Reyna, producer, former MTRCB chair, columnist***

"So far I haven't had any issues with the MTRCB. *Maingat ako, eh.* I don't know Dinglasan yet. For me, directors should be editing their own films. *Gusto ko wala na ang* MTRCB. Filmmakers should be given the liberty to censor their own work." ***Al Tantay, director, actor***

"My heart bleeds for Roces. He's a principled man. I wish they didn't do that to him. I think he had been an effective chair because he practiced fairness in rating films. During his term, there were movies aptly rated X. *Naramdaman mong may* rating board *talaga.*

"I don't know Dinglasan but I hope she will be as fair as Roces.

"While my peers want self-censorship, I personally feel that we should just all adhere to the law. Also, let's do away with the star system. I won't be surprised if people with more clout emerge as winners in the Manila Film Festival Awards." ***Dick Israel, actor***

"They should've informed him first.

"Ten years ago, during my dad's (the late George Estregan) time, the movie industry experienced its golden days. It's so sad to see the industry dying. It's hard to do a film nowadays.

"I hope that the new leadership would do something about the growing preference for international films. This is sad for local filmmakers. I hope she can do something to help lower (amusement) taxes and create more provisions favorable to the local film industry." ***Gary Estrada, actor***

"I think that the past MTRCB chairs were all the same. It's okay to replace the present head as long as his replacement would be somebody better.

"I expect the new board to be stricter, *pero sa tamang paraan. Mas pabor sa aming* sexy stars *na higpitan ang ibang* directors. I hope that through the MTRCB, our rights as persons will not be violated. *Maalis na sana sa pelikula ang mga* sexy scenes *na hindi naman talaga kailangan.*

"I hope she (Dinglasan) turns out to be a good leader and would not be easily swayed to approve scenes that abuse actors like us." ***Aya Medel, actress***

"I found Roces effective as MTRCB chair. He didn't hesitate to ban indecent movies even when *kilalang artista pa ang mga gumaganap.* But I hope the new chair would be more liberated this time, and fair." ***Rita Magdalena, actress***

"I really have nothing to say because I don't know Roces that much. It's true that the board gave "Diskarte" an X rating on its first screening but in their second review, R-18 *na.*

"I heard that he's a decent person and is very open.

"I don't know Dinglasan but I wish her luck. *Huwag lang sana siyang masyadong mahigpit lalo na kung may* quality *naman ang pelikula.*" ***Rudy Fernandez, actor, director***

*"Kahit sino naman ang ilagay mo sa posisyon kung ganu'n parin ang sistema, hindi mababago.* The board's committee should be represented by all sectors of society.

"I wish the new board would be more consistent. It should not be hard on movies that have sex-oriented contents but lenient on TV and commercials with the same concept. Maybe Dinglasan can do something about this." ***Felix Dalay, director***

"I got wind of the issue from the INQUIRER. I was surprised. What they did to him was rude.

"I know he is a capable chair. I disagreed with him on his "Live Show" decision but I don't have anything against his personality. Aside from that controversy, he had a really quiet administration.

"I don't know Dinglasan. I hope she would listen to the voice of the industry, which is now eyeing eventual classification. By this I mean not to censor but to classify movies." ***Boy Abunda, TV host, talent manager, columnist***

"I think Roces is competent and capable for the position that was given to him.

"I don't know Dinglasan so I have no opinion of her. I can just say that when you replace a person of authority with somebody else, you better be damned sure that the replacement is not only competent but better. Otherwise, people will only speculate about the reason for the replacement." ***Dyords Javier, director, performer***

"I was surprised. None of the other board members knew. I believe he had been an efficient leader. He was very open to ideas, always willing to listen to everybody.

"I don't know Dinglasan at all.

"I've always maintained that since film is an art form, the board governing it must have rules and regulations that are constantly evolving. The board should really deal with art. There should always be innovation." ***Jaime Fabregas, actor, director, MTRCB board member***

"I honestly didn't know that he had been removed. Frankly, it's the least of my concerns because I have not been making movies lately. His removal is obviously a reflection of the instability of the GMA presidency. Roces was appointed because of his connection with the Macapagals.

"I wouldn't say he had been efficient. The board has not really motivated the industry. The producers are at a loss as to what legal policy to follow. *Hindi malinaw ang mga* criteria as to what movies to make. But one year is not enough time to gauge his efficiency.

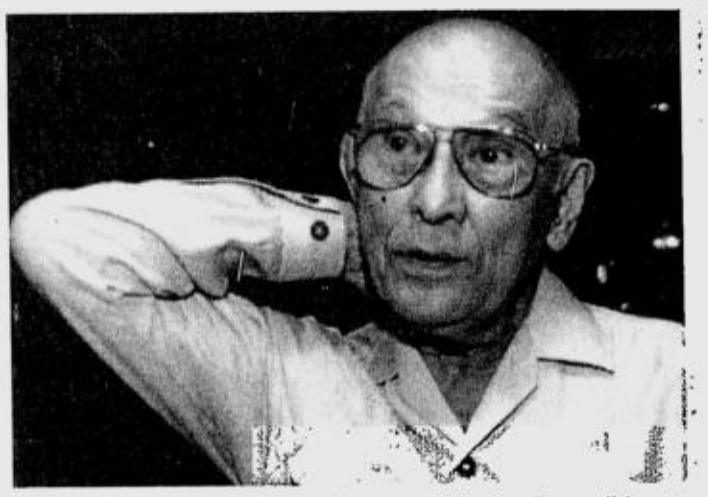
"I don't know her (Dinglasan). Whoever would sit as chair doesn't have to be a liberal. Just comply with the mandate of the law because what the law says is clear—plan with the industry and make it viable." ***Mauro Guia Samonte, director***

"I don't know what his (Roces) removal from the post means for the film industry. Will it mean a more libeal treament of films or a more conservative one?

"I can't say if he had been efficient, though there were no controversies during his time. When he assumed the position, he made a statement that movies of actors like Carmen Rosales and Romeo de la Rosa are his idea of what a good movie is. His statement had been a downer for the movies.

"I only know that Dinglasan was an Asumptionista, a schoolmate of the President.

*"Sana ma-*abolish *na ang* board. If not, I hope (Dinglasan) would be more open-minded." ***Pete Lacaba, former MTRCB vice chair, columnist, poet, scriptwriter***



**DECENT MAN. Show biz people agree Alejandro Roces did not deserve the treatment he got as MTRCB head.** JOAN BONDOC

## *Marilen Dinglasan, that's who*

IF THE removal of Alejandro Roces as MTRCB chair was a surprise to members of the local entertainment industry, so was the appointment of his replacement, Marilen Dinglasan.

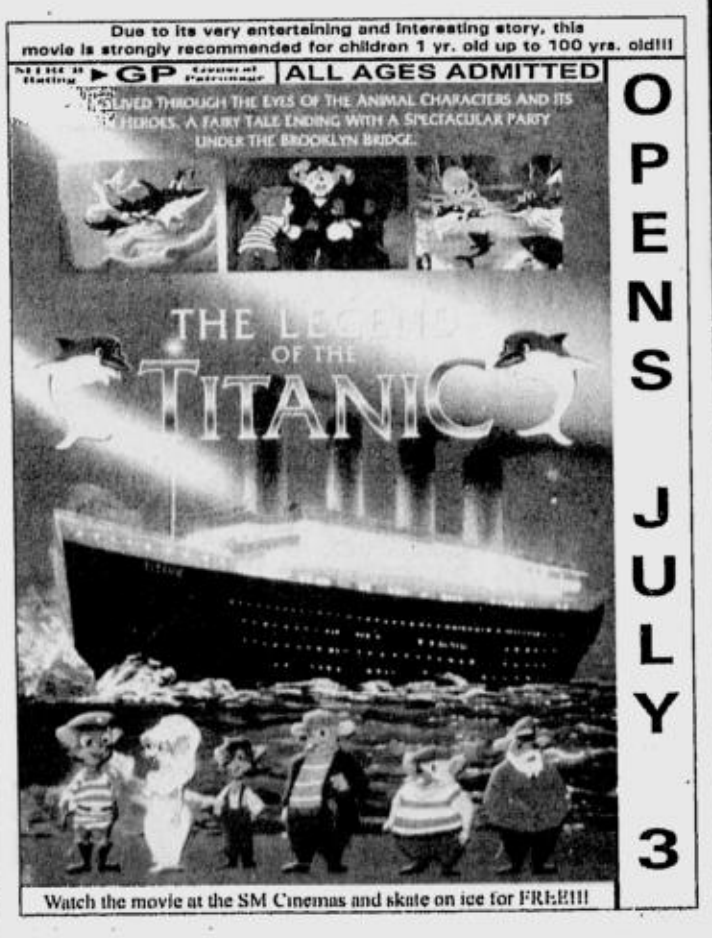
Most show biz insiders don't know who Dinglasan is. Dinglasan was a Batch '64 classmate of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Assumption College.

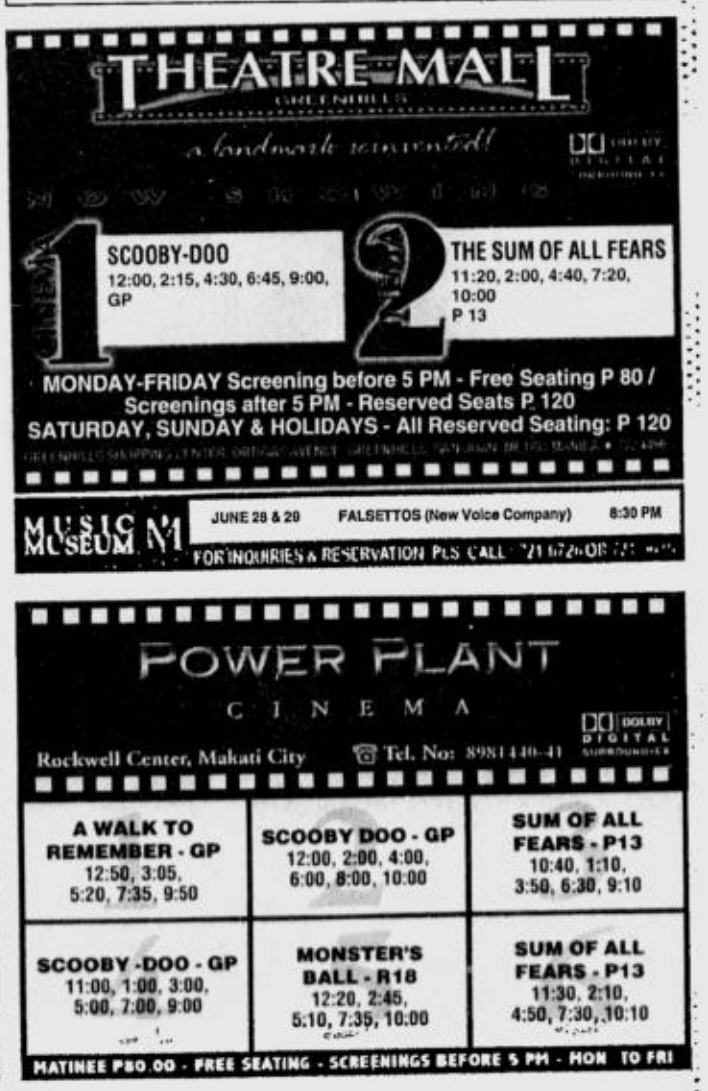
When Arroyo was still vice president and secretary of social welfare and development, she appointed Dinglasan project director of the Ginintuan Foundation, which raised funds for Ms Macapagal's projects. The foundation's board of trustees is composed of the President's other close friends from the Assumption, including president Bing Rodrigo, vice president Mary Anne Colayco, treasurer Baby Mackay, secretary Marilou Varona, auditor Hilda Antonio, and members Cynthia Norton, Jean Villanueva and Priscy Gamboa.

In February 2000, Dinglasan helped organize a golf event called "Ahon Kababaihan All-Ladies Golf Tournament" at Manila Southwoods, for the benefit of abused women, battered wives and dysfunctional families.

Last year, Dinglasan wrote the lyrics for "Alerta Labandera (Alert Laundrywoman)," the theme of "Gloria Labandera," a soap opera sponsored by Surf laundry detergent.

Before her appointment as MTRCB chair, Dinglasan was the passenger operations manager of Thai Airways-Asia Pacific. She also served as vice chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB). ***Leah Salterio***



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SundayBiz

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

BI

# Orphaned at 11, exec rises to top CPA exams here and in the US

RAMOS today

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MOST accounting graduates of 1971 had but one thought in mind—to work for one of the country's top accounting and auditing firms. Elrey T. Ramos, who topped the 1971 CPA board examinations, was no different.

But while his batchmates had to look for jobs, work sought out Ramos. After graduating salutatorian of his class at the University of the East, he accepted the offer of SGV and Co., the country's biggest auditing firm, to work as a junior auditor for P300 a month, a princely sum at that time.

"SGV was a good training ground. I learned all about controls because I worked in the audit department," Ramos, who now heads East West Bank, tells SundayBiz.

Ramos stayed with SGV until 1975 when a garment manufacturing firm asked him to be its group controller at four times the salary he was getting at SGV as senior auditor.

"Of course I took on the job because money was important to me at that time. I had to help my grandmother support my brothers," Ramos says.

He, however, regretted the decision later because he did not like the pace of his job at the garment firm. Fortunately, he got another offer just four months later to join Family Bank as executive assistant to the president Mercedes Gotianun.

## First Job

"It was really there that I started to develop my career in banking with Mrs. Gotianun as my mentor," Ramos says.

Ramos worked with Family Bank until 1980 when the Gotianun family asked him to work at the Insular Bank of Asia and America as senior vice president.

"I continued to work for the banking group until Family Bank was sold to the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Insular Bank was bought by the former PCIBank in 1985," Ramos says.

The following year he decided to join his wife Fely, who was also his classmate at UE and number 8 in the CPA board exams, and daughters in the United States.

"I thought at that time that it was just the proper thing to do. I had to be with my family. Before that I used to just visit them in the States or they would come here. At that time in 1986 we decided to stay there for good," Ramos says.

He did not have job when he first got to the United States but he eventually worked for an insurance company. He says that since he had a lot of time on his hands he decided to take the board exams in the US for certified public accountants.

He reviewed his accounting rules and when the results were released in 1986, Ramos placed second among the 60,000 who took the board exams that year.

Ramos was even given the Elijah Watt Sells Award by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for having passed all the subjects in the CPA exams in one sitting with no grades below 90 percent.

"I did not know that it was such a prestigious award, but as soon as I received it, there was a deluge of offers for me to work for different companies. I chose to work in San Francisco with United Savings Bank as controller. It had about 70 branches," Ramos relates.

Ramos was happily working with the medium-sized bank for two years until the Gotianuns came knocking on his door once again. He was being tapped to oversee the investments that the Gotianun family wanted to make in the United States.

"There is something about Mrs. Gotianun that really makes it very difficult to say no to her, so I found myself working for them again. At that time they wanted to do something in the US," Ramos says.

The Gotianuns became involved in a lot of businesses, from real estate to savings and loan banking, and Ramos was tapped to manage these firms. He felt at that time that he had everything he wanted.

"I was my own boss at that time because I was managing the operations by myself in the US. It was exciting," Ramos says.

The Gotianun family, however, had other plans

ORPHANED/ B8

NEW HONORS

### Filipino Among the Topnotchers In California CPA Examination

**A magna-cum-laude accounting graduate of the University of the East, in Manila, recently won new honors as one of the topnotchers in the accountancy examination given by the California, CPA board.**

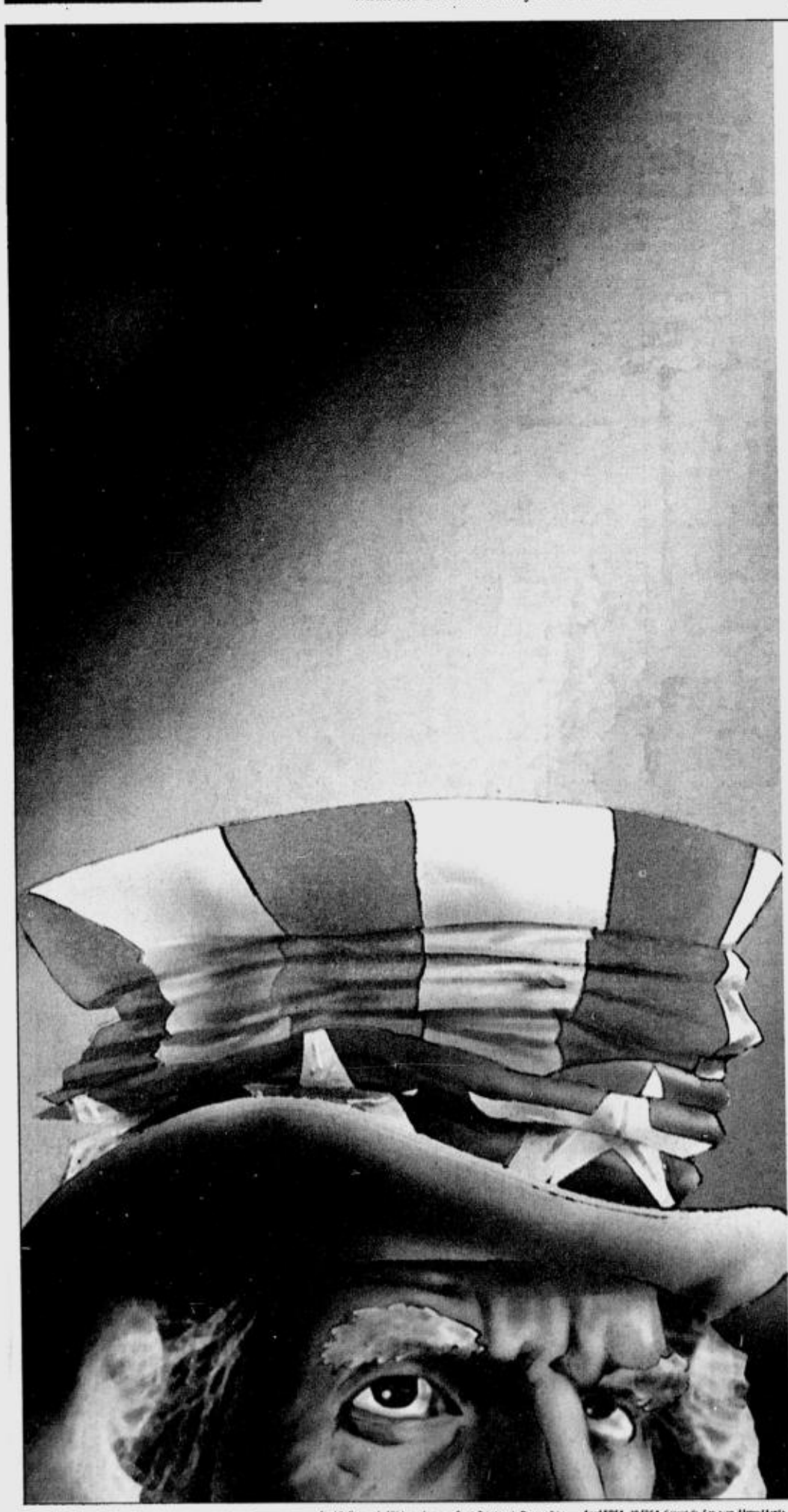
Elrey T. Ramos, the first-placer in the 1971 Philippine CPA test, is now in Los Angeles, where he received, last April 26, the Elijah Watt Sell Certificate for Performance with High Distinction in the May, 1985, California CPA exams.

The Filipino Accountants Association (Los Angeles chapter), the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Los Angeles chapter) and the Filipino Accountants of Southern California, Inc., joined hands to honor Ramos—a former resident of

ELREY T. RAMOS

RAMOS' achievement featured in the May 1986 issue of the California Examiner

E. T. RAMOS (1st)
RAMOS in 1971



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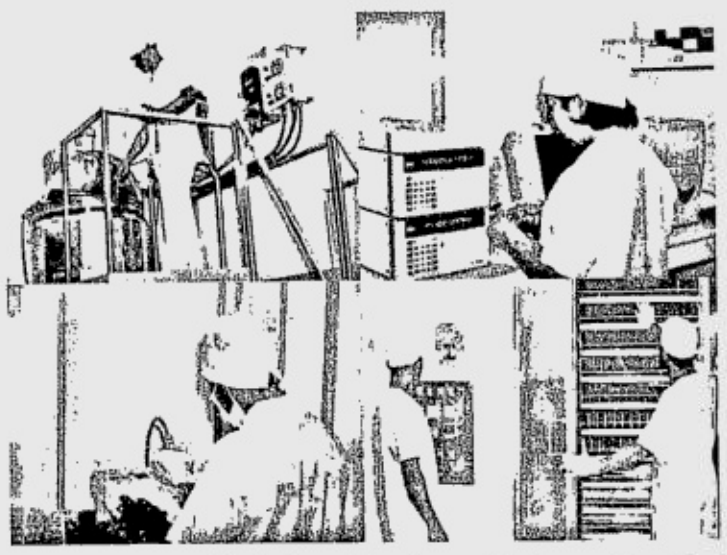

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## IN YOUR FACE

BY L.P. LEVISTE

**THE WORLD knows all about food from Thailand, China, Italy, Vietnam and India. If restaurateur Glenda Barretto of the Via Mare group had her way, the world will also learn to love food from the Philippines. She and other like-minded individuals are currently preparing a menu of homegrown dishes that she hopes would make Filipino food as distinct and popular as the other cuisines.**

**SKYCABLE and Disney Channel recently signed a partnership agreement. From left are Carlos V. Tria, chief operating officer, Beyond Cable Inc.; Eugenio Lopez III, chair of Beyond Cable Inc.; Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Jon Nierman, Managing director, Walt Disney Television, Asia-Pacific; and Raymund Miranda, managing director, Disney Channel Asia.**


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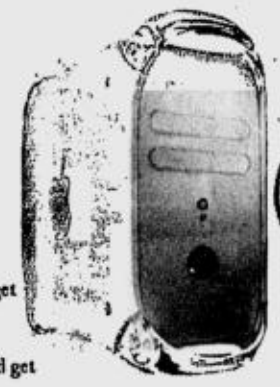

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## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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ANSWER ON PAGE E7:

GOES INTO HANDMADE PAPER

# Livelihood lecturer takes lessons to heart

By Mei Magsino
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LIPA City—AFTER lecturing on handmade paper for almost 15 years, Lita Exconde took her lessons to heart and set up her own paper making venture.

She lectured at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center from 1978 to 1992; went into the coal briquette business, until she churned out export-quality handmade paper.

In a span of nine years, Exconde's firm, Papelipa, has conquered not only the Philippine market but also the United States, Germany and Japan markets.

Papelipa has supplied them with uniquely designed handmade paper turned into greeting and calling cards, wrapping paper, memo books, lampshades, bags and boxes. Her paper comes from scrap abaca, waste paper and dried banana stalks.

"One thing I always lectured to our students at TLRC was that they had to be really interested in the business they get into. When the interest is there, hard work and perseverance follow," Exconde said, putting on display the glass votives that Papelipa exports to the United States.

The fossilized leaf and petal designs come from the backyard of her family home in Banaybanay, Barangay San Vicente in this city.

EXCONDE shifted from teaching to selling.

### The lecturer

Exconde and husband Allan, both chemical engineers, had been lecturers at the TLRC.

She obtained her major in pulp and paper technology at the Norwegian Institute of Technology at the University of Trondheim, Norway.

The technology on handmade paper was developed at the Forest Product Research and Development Institute of the TLRC.

In 1985, when the technology on handmade paper was ready for transfer as a livelihood project of the TLRC, the couple lectured on the technology all over the Philippines.

That time, a paper company in Los Baños, Laguna, adopted the technology. It was supported by the International Rice Research Institute.

That paper company introduced the handmade paper in the market while the couple still lectured all over the country to teach about a technology that could provide an alternative livelihood to different organizations and cooperatives.

But government salary was not enough for the family.

In 1985, her husband resigned and looked for work. That time, Exconde was also contemplating setting up her own business.

In 1992, she filed a temporary leave from TLRC and worked for six months as product manager of Zuellig's Paper Chemicals.

That time, the power crisis was at its peak, the paper department she managed had an overproduction of paper because their paper mill clients bought only 50 percent of what the company was producing. The energy crisis affected her job. After six months, she resigned. "Why would I go back? I had been there and had been out. I was looking for my place in the sun and I didn't find it there. I knew I had to start my own business," Exconde said.

Armed with the technology she had been lecturing on for so long, she decided to go into business. In 1992, there was still no early retirement program for civil employees so she got nothing after working 14 years with government.

### Handmade paper

Before Exconde started the handmade paper business, she first ventured into making charcoal briquettes, also known as molded charcoal. The plant was set up at the back of their house. "Even if I didn't get money from working in the government when I resigned, I didn't lose hope," Exconde said, "I borrowed P1.2 million from TLRC and used the money to start the charcoal business." Exconde thought of the big profits she could make with the charcoal briquettes, as the base material used to manufacture it was just charcoal fines or the powdered remains of charcoal.

Charcoal makers consider charcoal fines as garbage. With Exconde's business, she turned the waste product into briquette which she exported to Europe. Briquettes are molden charcoal that are used for fireplaces.

Unfortunately, the raw material that used to come from Quezon province ran out and she had to go as far as Cagayan de Oro to get the supply.

"The problem was the production itself," she said, "the machines were too costly, and the supply of material was not steady. We even hired a chemical engineer who was an expert in manufacturing charcoal briquettes, but the business did not really prosper."

But instead of losing hope and closing shop, she still used the working area designed for charcoal briquette making and shifted to handmade paper.

With only P75,000 left from the TLRC loan, she started the handmade paper manufacturing.

"The truth is, my real interest was in handmade paper. I was just attracted to the profits of charcoal briquettes," she said, "But then again, why venture into something that you don't have your heart on?"

In November 1993, Papelipa's handmade paper went into business. Her husband Allan also came home from abroad to assist her. Her family also helped out.

In 1997, the company penetrated the United States, German and Japanese markets.

With the handmade paper business, the P75,000 start-up capital Exconde used soared to over P1.5 million. She paid their debts and was even able to buy a family car.

### Waste products

From scraps of abaca, paper trimmings that printing presses dump as garbage, dried banana stalks from their neighbors, Papelipa created a work of art that gained the attention of the international market.

Exconde buys the rejects or scrap abaca fibers at P25 a kilo, and the white paper trimmings of printing presses at P20 a kilo.

There are two kinds of abaca fiber. The good fiber ends up as string for *sampaguita* garlands, while the bad ones or rejects are usually thrown away as garbage or scrap.

Exconde uses the scrap fiber as one of the base materials for the handmade paper.

Sometimes, she also uses dried banana stalk from her backyard or from neighbors who sell the materials at P20 for one kilo.

Sometimes, like the banana stalks, and depending on the clients' demands, she also uses the *salago* fiber from Marinduque, which she buys at only P30 for one kilo delivered.

"That's one thing beautiful in this business. You help the environment get rid of garbage while creating a work of art that's unique in every way," Exconde said.

But before the work of art comes out in print or as a bag or furniture, the process of making handmade paper is really very laborious .

"When you get into this business, the price of the raw materials compared with the selling price will really excite you," Exconde said, "But you have to prepare yourself for the labor cost."

To soften the abaca, banana and *salago* fibers, these are cooked in water with caustic soda.

When soft enough, the fibers go through the pulp beating process to cottonize or fibrillate it. At this stage, the fiber is ready for papermaking.

LIVELIHOOD/ B8

SOME of Exconde's products

PHOTOS BY MEI MAGSINO

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# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

## Now is best time to buy housing bonds, says Pag-Ibig acting chief

"THE PAG-IBIG Fund housing bond has presently the highest yield in the market, making it the most profitable investment tool today," said lawyer Romero F.S. Quimbo, Pag-Ibig Fund acting president and CEO, during the conference on housing needs of government employees spearheaded by the Philippine Government Employees Association.

P2 billion pesos worth of Pag-Ibig housing bonds were offered in the financial market late last year. The proceeds from the sale of the bonds shall be used to finance the housing program of the government.

"Specifically, the proceeds will fund approximately 10,000 housing units providing shelter security to over 30,000 households," Quimbo said.

The bonds have a term of five years and one day with an interest of 8 percent per annum, tax free, and payable semi-annually. The bonds are available in denominations of P5,000, P10,000, P50,000, P100,000, P500,000 and P1 million.

"For the same five-year instrument, our housing bonds are the most competitive, especially now that Treasury bill rates have dipped to as low as 4 percent."

Pag-Ibig members and nonmembers, overseas Filipino investors, insurance companies, retirement funders, institutional investors and developers may invest in the Pag-Ibig housing bonds. The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) is the registered paying agent and Trustee Bank while the Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC) is the guarantor. The HGC guarantee carries with it the unconditional guarantee of the Republic of the Philippines.

Aside from high earnings, institutional and individual investors can win a house and lot package amounting to at least P500,000 through a semi-annual raffle draw. The first raffle draw was scheduled June 8.

"We are raffling off approximately eight house and lot units every year, which are not only limited to Metro Manila but in the provinces as well."

Quimbo encouraged government employees, who account for 35 percent of Pag-Ibig's total membership, to avail themselves of the bonds.

"You not only earn but you also support the government's mass housing program. More importantly, you get a chance to win a brand new house and lot package. Where else can you find a better deal?"

**GLOBE SUPPORTS PR SUMMIT**

Globe Telecom recently signed as a major sponsor of the 2nd Philippine Public Relations Summit held May 23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Organized by Context Communications International Inc., headed by Romeo Virtusio, the PR Summit gathered private and government sector managers, PR, advertising and marketing practitioners, information officers, academicians and students to discuss 'PR's One True Challenge: What We Can Do For Our Country.' Shown are Context chair Romeo P. Virtusio and Globe Telecom SVP lawyer Rodolfo Salalima (seated, 2nd and 3rd from left). With them are Globe community relations officer Melissa T. Fontanilla (standing, left), Globe AVP for public relations Jones T. Campos (left), and Virtusio Public Relations president Lulu Virtusio.

## *Gioielli offers fashion accents, job opportunities*

GOLD clad jewelry from Gioielli International Inc. is a sensible choice as accent for office wear.

Thelma Valle, sale and marketing manager, says Gioielli fashion jewelry looks as genuine. Thus, the fashion jewelry are saleable and many are earning selling Gioielli products.

Housewives, students, out-of-school youth, professionals, private and government employees in need of full-time or part-time jobs are invited by Gioielli to join its sales force.

Valle says applicants can visit its head office at 1264 Batangas Street, Makati City or call 889-4725 to 27 / 810-3502, or visit any of its 40 branches and sales offices strategically located in different parts of the country such as Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Cotabato, Dagupan, Dipolog, Iligan, Iloilo, Marbel, Mindoro, Naga, Anonas, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cavite, Daet, Dau, Davao, Kabankalan, Kalibo, Legazpi, Lucena, Olongapo, Ozamis, Roxas, San Pablo, Sorsogon, Tacloban, Tagaytay and Tagbilaran.

How do applicants start?

First, they approach their neighbors and relatives and later they ask referrals from them for their friends and acquaintances. These sales people try other means to know more prospects from other areas and communities.

Valle says her team enjoys selling 24 klad jewelry, perfumes from Paris and imported watches. Some even receive awards from Gioielli for their success and achievements.

## Samsung launches World Cyber Games 2002 in RP

SAMSUNG Electronics Philippines Corp. has announced it will launch the country's first attempt to participate in the 2nd World Cyber Games (WCG 2002). Through a series of preliminary competition in the "1st Philippine Cyber Games Challenge," Filipino players will be chosen to compete with some 500 gamers from 53 countries in Daejon, South Korea for grand prizes amounting to $300,000 to the top winners.

The nationwide games will bring together more than 9,000 Filipino gaming enthusiasts who will compete in PC game events including Star Craft: Brood War, Age of Empires: The Conquerors Expansion and Counter Strike. Only gamers who are 16 years old and above qualify for the international competition, although players 16 years old and below may also register for the minor league.

The preliminaries will be held simultaneously from Aug. 1 to 30 in four Metro Manila venues and 10 key cities and provinces including Dagupan, Angeles, Baguio, Legaspi, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Davao and Cebu.

The national finals will be held at the Araneta Coliseum from Sept. 27 to 28, where 9 winners will be chosen from 256 finalists to carry the Philippine flag to the World Cyber Games from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.

Contestants will be given 30 minutes playing time to beat their opponents and earn the highest points. A pre-determined number of players with the most number of points will win and have the chance to represent their city or province in the national finals.

With this event, Samsung aims to tap the talents and energy of the Filipino youth and challenge them to excel in the World Cyber Games. As the leader in the digital entertainment culture, Samsung believes this will be another sporting event that will arouse the national pride of all Filipinos.

Interested participants may register at www.samsungelectronics.ph until July 15. Registrants will be notified of their game schedule and venue.

**AND THE WINNER IS!**

The esteemed National Consumers Council (People's Choice Award) had recently named Astring-O-Sol Ice as the Most Outstanding Mouthwash Brand in the country during the 17th annual Parangal ng Bayan Awards—the country's biggest and pioneer tribute event. Astring-O-Sol Ice bested other mouthwash brands in product quality and consumer satisfaction. Astring-O-Sol Ice Ready To Use Mouthwash has consistently delivered its promise of 'fresh breath confidence in a flash' to millions of young Filipinos nationwide. Shown are Deza Tolentino, right, brand manager for Astring-O-Sol Ice, and Dette Rome, account director, Campaigns and Grey.

**ILOCOS SUR INDIGENTS GET MEDICARE**

The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Rep. Salacnib Baterina (1st District, Ilocos Sur) formally enrolling 9,000 indigent families into the Medicare Para sa Masa program of PhilHealth. The families may soon avail themselves of hospitalization benefits such as subsidies for hospital room and board fees, allowances for drugs and medicines, x-ray and laboratory exams, and even payments for professional fees of attending physicians from any of the 1,600 PhilHealth-accredited hospitals in the country. Shown signing the MOA are (from left) Val Valila, PhilHealth vice president for program management group for membership and marketing, Baterina, Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, PhilHealth president and CEO, and Ernesto V. Beltran, PhilHealth assistant vice president for Region I.

BITS & Clips

### Basic photo course at Fort Santiago

PHOTOGRAPHY enthusiasts who want to learn more, as well as students, can take the basic photo course organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. (FPPFI) starting today, June 23, at the Yslas Restaurante, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Sponsors are YKL Development and Trading Corp. and the Intramuros Administration. The workshop, which started in 1993, will be conducted by seasoned lecturers Vic Sison, past chair of Photoworld Manila, professor Cecilia Angeles, Ador Pamintuan, and Tony Raval. For details, visit FPPF at the 7th floor of Comfoods Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, or call Beverly Estrosas or Boy Capala at 813-7420 or 843-5341, or e-mail ppfpwm@pacific.net.ph.

### PCOM course on epidemiology, biostatistics

THE PHILIPPINE College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM) will conduct an advanced course module on Occupational Epidemiology and Biostatistics, according to Dr. Oscar Tinio, module coordinator and Dr. Alfredo Balintong, national president. The session will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from June 28 to 30. The venue will be announced soon. The registration fee is P4,500. Interested parties can register at the PCOM office at the PMA Building, or call Dette or Tess at 455-2410 or 929-7741.

### PDA-Muntinlupa's 11th induction

THE PHILIPPINE Dental Association-Muntinlupa Chapter is holding its 11th induction of officers and 1st Scientific on June 23, 2 p.m. at the Vivere Suites, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa. Marking its 10 years is the theme "Go for MDC Goals Through Unity, Service, and Professionalism, Beyond the Limits."

**FAPSP 2002 ALUMNI GATHERING**

Seven Fujitsu-Asia Pacific Scholarship Program Filipino alumni had a recent 'get-together' dinner hosted by Fujitsu Philippines Inc. with Dr. Blair Odo, Japan-America Institute of Management Science (JAIMS) vice president for academic affairs. The affair also celebrates the send-off of the new ICMP (Intercultural Management Program) scholar Rowena Maravilla. Shown seated, from left, are Mian Lacson, S. Tsubotani, FPI chair, Odo, Ayesah Abubakar, Pie Cabigas and Pita Pura. Standing, from left, are Kristie Aninang, FPI scholarships coordinator, Herbert Santos, Vlad Lopez, Maravilla, Raymund Mercado, and FPI's HRD manager Tomas Quioge. Applications for FAPSP Batch 19 (2002-2003) is ready for distribution this June at the FPI head office in Makati.

Product FILES

## Robovites: for kids' better health

TAKING care of children's health is of paramount importance. One company that understands kids' health is Vita Health Philippines. They specialize in children's vitamins that help kids grow up active, healthy and strong.

Robovites Multivitamins plus Zinc contains 11 important nutrients to keep children physically active and mentally alert. This delicious chewable supplement contains Vitamins B1, B2, B3, B6 and B12 essential for healthy skin and the nervous system. It also contains a healthy dose of Vitamin C which safeguards against colds and infections. A clinical trial reported in the British Medical Journal shows that Zinc added to multivitamins raised schoolchildren IQ to a higher level.

Robovites Acidophyllus shortens the duration of diarrhea and constipation in children. It restores the healthy balance of intestinal flora and promotes healthy digestion. Robovites Appetite Boosters promotes weight gain and increases kids' appetite. It contains Lysine, an important amino acid for the diet. Robovites Calcium contains 100 mg of elemental calcium in a chocolate flavored chewable form. It contains no artificial sweeteners and are free of preservatives.

Robovites Vitamin C is the immunity booster that builds strong bones and teeth, healthy collagen and clear skin.

Robovites is available at Health Express stores at Glorietta 3 (892-7978) and Robinsons Galleria (635-3725).

# Ex-senator's staffer meets public's demand from the kitchen

SHEILA Orbase, 15, shows off a plateful of the special Camalig inulokan *pinangat*.

**By Roly Casim Embile**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CAMALIG, Albay—Ever wonder why Jose Shull and Macaria Borlagdatan, both of Albay province, ever got to be 114 and 109 years old, respectively?

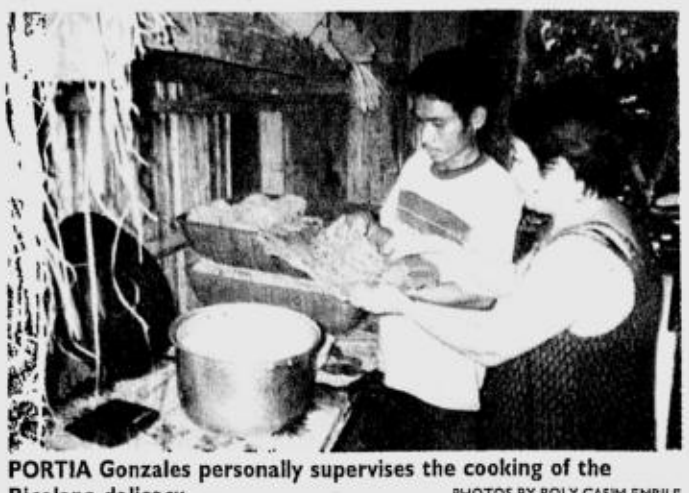
For one, both owe their longevity to having lived simple, stress-free lives, and for another, to their partiality and unflinching loyalty to the *sili*-laced Bicolano foods.

Before she died in April, Borlagdatan, in particular, cherished the years she and her family were sustained by the *pinakulaw*, the poor man's food.

The *pinakulaw* is a concoction of *gabi* leaves, coconut milk and a generous proportion of the region's hottest *siling labuyo* called *sangaria* (pronounced *san-ga-riya*).

The contribution of this humble Bicolano staple to long life may have yet to be established empirically but older Bicolanos, including some 20 other centenarians, invariably owe their longevity to their diet.

Lately, however, the *pinangat* of Camalig town, a variation of the *pinakulaw*, has transformed itself into a global competitor through the enterprising spirit of its makers.



PORTIA Gonzales personally supervises the cooking of the Bicolano delicacy. PHOTOS BY ROLY CASIM EMBILE

### Drive-by counter

During lunchtime on a typical working day, almost nobody occupies any of the five tables in one of about a dozen equally small restaurants in this picturesque town some 450 kilometers south of Manila.

"We do not expect these tables to be filled because the activity here is at that counter," said waitress Sheila Orbase, 15, pointing to a small window fronting the highway.

On this drive-by counter were two huge aluminum pots of *pinangat* flanked by trays of mangoes, bananas and papayas.

Indeed, starting at a little past nine, all sorts of vehicles like bicycles, motorized tricycles, jeepneys, trucks and cars began to form a long queue leading to this counter—in front of which is a metal stand-up placard with "Camalig Special Pinangat P20.00 only" written in red paint.

As the first customers drove off with their *pinangat*, still more joined the line until the last bunch was sold a little past 11.

"Sorry, no more. Please make an advance order next time," counter assistant Ivy Orila, 16, apologetically told each of four late-arriving drive-by customers in her unique Camalig version of the Bicol dialect.

Portia Gonzales, 53, owner of the outlet, said it was only one typical day for her customers, some of whom endured the hour-long drive from as far as Naga City or Tabaco City.

Gonzales said the demand for her special *pinangat* has increased virtually by the day since she started her business in the early '90s.

"But the scene you have observed is not even a quarter of the whole story and range where our product has gone," she said.

Leaving behind the corridors of power, prestige and influence as the personal secretary of then Senate President Jovito Salonga, Gonzales and her civil engineer husband resigned from their respective jobs and went back to their hometown of Camalig.

While back in the laid-back and relaxed atmosphere, she had the time to entertain and visit friends whom she found out were very fond of her home-cooked *pinangat*.

But then, she also realized that there was much to be desired of the foodstuff being sold in the market.

### Quality control

If only to impress some of her influential and political friends of her home cooking, Gonzales began to experiment and improve on the *pinangat*.

She then came out with a variety of tastes, suiting them to the personal preferences of her friends. Among her most successful—and by now the most widely copied—innovations is the *inulokan*.

This specialty is cooked with the juice of ground fresh water crabs locally called the *ulok*.

"But there are much more than meets the eye of the special *pinangat* from our kitchen," she proudly said.

She said her ingredients consist of finely ground garlic, ginger, black pepper, *tanglad* (lemon grass), pork, shrimp or fish, salt and chopped homegrown *apay* or *gabi* leaves.

All these ingredients are then wrapped and tied into a 5x5-inch square and 2-inch thick bundle and cooked in coconut milk and other ingredients such as fresh water crab juice.

When cooked, each bundle is then laced with thick freshly squeezed coconut milk.

Gonzales cautioned that the real quality and the source of its uniqueness in taste and appeal significantly rest on the quality of the *gabi* leaves.

She said she hires an expert who supplies her with the best quality *puting apay* (white-stemmed *gabi* leaves) which are grown in wet volcanic sand.

This variety produces smaller but crispy leaves, which when cooked properly become as soft as a cake.

It is unlike the more common greenish- or reddish-stemmed variety, most of which have poor texture and may even cause itching on the tongue when eaten.

Most importantly, according to Gonzales, the ratio of coconut milk should be such that each piece of *pinangat* should be cooked in an equivalent one whole coconut.

"A few months later, people began to notice and pine for my *pinangat* so that I decided to make it a business venture," she said.

### Variety

She said friends in the restaurant and food distribution business further encouraged her and placed their orders in increasing volumes.

Other than the *inulokan*, which has an added garnishing of fresh *lumbod* or young coconut meat, Gonzales has added a few more varieties that have likewise become regular favorites among her customers.

One is the *sinaraan na pinangat* (garnished with blue fin tuna), which is most preferred by customers on diet and the chicken-garnished *minanokan na pinangat*. Both of them are intended for those who would not eat pork by personal preference or by reason of faith.

Still, the more discriminating customers, like strict weight watchers, would place special orders for the old-fashioned plain ones.

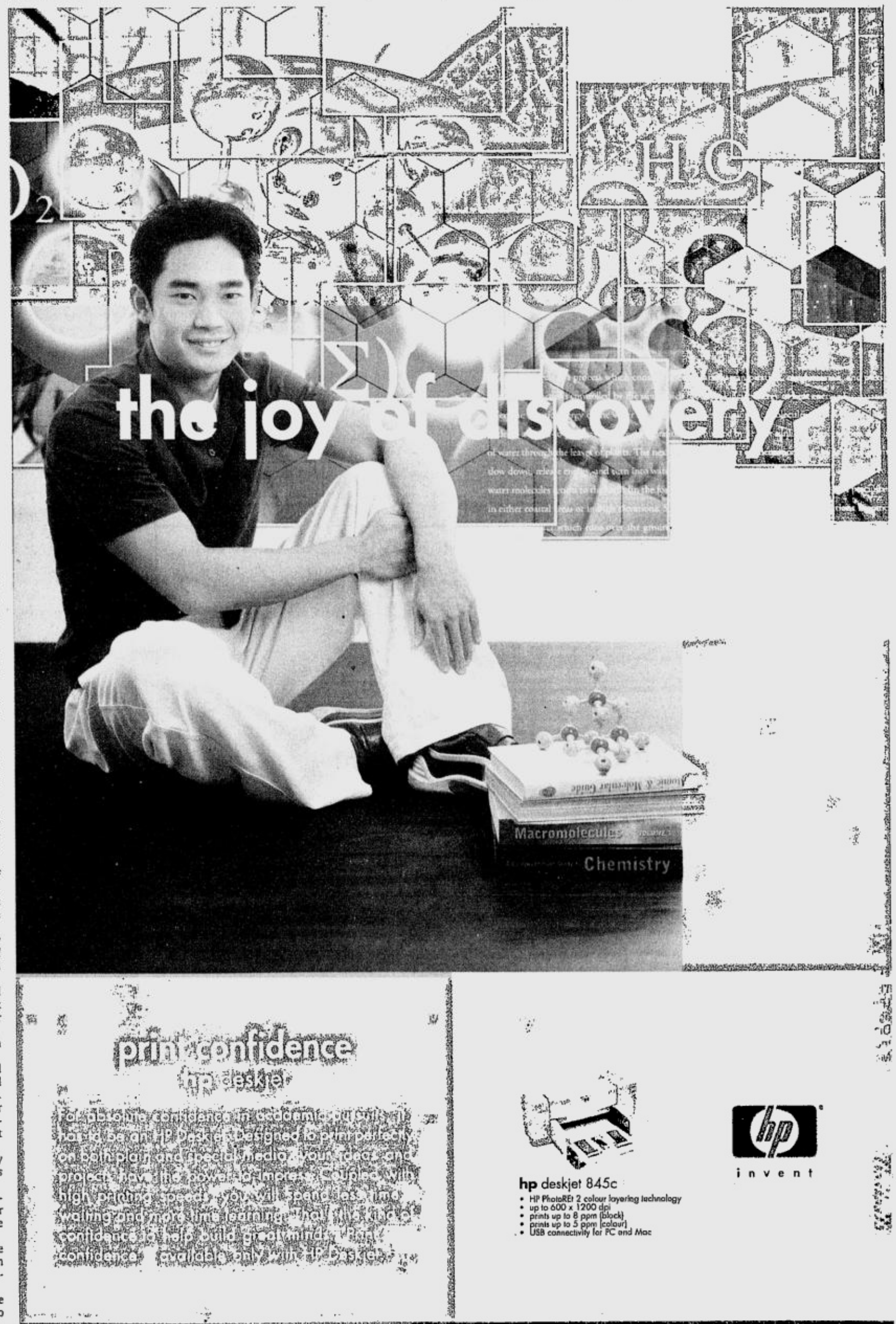
All of these varieties are a choice between the plain ones, which is preferred by Metro Manila customers, the hot (mildly spiked with *siling labuyo*, or the super hot (not advisable for novice and the uninitiated).

The Bicolanos, Visayans and Mindanaoans favor the latter.

### Shelf life

Gonzales said her *pinangat* has a guaranteed

EX-SENATOR'S/ B|5|



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# JOB MARKET ©
## NATIONAL EDITION

**JOB MARKET**
is exclusively for job advertisements.
This classified advertising section is published every Sunday and distributed nationwide.
**RATES**
P230 per column centimeter (E-VAT exclusive)
**DEADLINES**
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon
Please turn to page B12 for more classified ads.

## U.S.A. EMPLOYMENT

HCP Services INC since 1984
**Health Care Placement Services, Inc. (HCPS) of NEW YORK, U.S.A.**

*R.N.'s for the United States*

**CGFNS PASSERS (M/F)**

R.N.'S WITH EXCELLENT SCHOLASTIC RECORDS AND HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE ARE MOST WELCOME TO APPLY

**- July 4TH thru 8TH Final Interview -**
**NCLEX will be taken in the U.S.A. at their convenience while working and after the U.S. review program.**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**
**( USD 3,900 to 4,500 )**
WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES TO COVER INS FEE, TOEFL/TWE/TSE & AIRFARE, ETC. PLUS FREE HOUSING FOR SIX (6) MONTHS IN THE U.S.A.

**Ms. Joan Madden** founded **Health Care Placement Services, Inc. in 1984.** Prior to this date, she was the Director of Nursing at Bellevue Hospital Center during which time she received her Advanced, Certified Nursing Administration from the American Nurses Association.

Her range of clinical and teaching experience, combined with her extensive administrative experience, has prepared her well for the demands of recruiting.

Joan has worked closely with nurses from all over the world; She understands your dedication as nurses, your concern for your families, and your desire to succeed in the U.S.A.

Her knowledge of the hospitals and nursing homes will help you to get started at these facilities. She knows how the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service works, and she keeps up with the latest changes in the laws and regulations.

More importantly, Joan and her staff at Health Care Placement Services, Inc. have the reputation for caring about each one of the nurses who travel from the Philippines to the U.S.A.

**Ms. Joan Madden will select and provide direct employment with the following hospitals:**

* WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER (NEW YORK)
* ST. BERNARD HOSPITAL (CHICAGO)
* BENEDICTINE HOSPITAL (NEW YORK)
* CONCOURSE NURSING HOMES (NEW YORK)
* ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER (CHICAGO)
* OKLAHOMA NURSING HOMES (OKLAHOMA)
* FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE HEALTH CENTER (NEW YORK)

HCP has placed more than 2,000 Filipino RNs in over 70 facilities in the U.S.A. since 1984. HCP has been an outstanding principal of IPAMS since 1986.

To take advantage of this opportunity: Candidates must personally apply soonest by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board ratings, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to

**IPAMS** since 1972 U.S. immigration consultancy
INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
1455 Leon Guinto Sr. St. 1004
Malate, Metro Manila, Philippines
E-mail: ipams_us@mydestiny.net

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.IPAMS.COM.PH**
NO PLACEMENT FEE INVOLVED IN THE PHILS. AND U.S.A.

## CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SENIOR EXECUTIVES

The successful candidate will be responsible for managing a close and amicable relationship with investors and the media; building brands and creating advertising strategies; and planning & implementing strategic communication programs.

He/she also will be responsible for all communication programs in conjunction with strategic management plans to ensure appropriate communication of corporate image, including promoting internal communication flow from, to and within various Business Units; managing, housing and coordinating overall preparation for corporate visits.

Position Requirements:

- An MBA degree in marketing, management, or mass communication
- Self starter, independent with excellent interpersonal skills.
- Creative with at least 10 years of corporate communication experience at managerial level in an international advertising agency or multi-national company.
- Conversant in English, with excellent writing skills and exceptional overall business understanding

An attractive remuneration package commensurate with experience and ability will be offered to the successful candidates. Qualified candidates should send their CV with recent photo, expected salary and contact number by July 7, 2002 to the address below:

**MRS. BETTY S. MUÑOZ**
**LOT 13 BLK 210**
**NORTH FAIRVIEW SUBD. Ph-8**
**FAIRVIEW, QC**
**or FAX AT 4195086**

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

*We are a key player in the fastfood industry carrying a popular multinational brand. In support of our expansion program, we are eagerly inviting* **highly competent individuals** *to join our team as*

### FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS

*who will be responsible for*

Potential retail site identification ▪ Site feasibility study preparation ▪ Business plan presentation ▪ New franchise outlet application processing and negotiation ▪ Retail outlet/store profitability evaluation ▪ Management of existing group of franchise retail outlets within area coverage

*Areas of Assignment:*

**Daraga, Albay ▪ Bacolod ▪ Baguio ▪ Balanga, Bataan ▪ Batac, Ilocos Sur ▪ Batangas ▪ Calasiao ▪ Cebu ▪ Iloilo ▪ Lucena, Quezon ▪ Metro Manila ▪ Sta.Rosa, Nueva Ecija**

Graduate of Management Engineering, Business Management or other related courses with Finance and Marketing subjects ▪ Ability to communicate in the local dialect a plus ▪ Willing to do fieldwork ▪ Assertive and results-oriented ▪ Fluent in verbal and written English ▪ Outgoing and comfortable in dealing with other people ▪ Proficient in MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint ▪ With valid driver's license ▪ Related work experience an advantage ▪ Preferably Male, 21 to 35 years of age; in good health

### BUSINESS ANALYST

*who will be responsible for*

Collation of sales reports, analysis of numbers and preparation of recommendations to Management ▪ Development of a demand forecasting model to determine efficient levels of sales stock requirements based on historical sales figures

Graduate of Management Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Statistics or other Business-related courses with above average scholastic records ▪ Strong in Statistics, linear programming and operations research modeling ▪ Very proficient in MS Excel and PowerPoint ▪ Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

*Send your resume, 2x2 recent ID picture, transcript of records, a brief essay of at least 200 words describing yourself and an application letter stating your preferred area/s of assignment and why we should choose you over other applicants, to:*

**P.O. Box QC 2002-75**
**c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer**
**G/F St. Anthony's Building, 891 Aurora Boulevard**
**corner Oxford Street, Cubao, Quezon City**

*A competitive compensation and benefits package awaits successful candidates.*
*Send your application* **NOW!**

## CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL - PHILIPPINES

is in need of

### FINANCE OFFICER FOR PALAWAN BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR PROGRAM

**Job Description:**

The position will provide support in corridor budget and financial management. The successful candidate will also be responsible for implementing the financial and accounting systems and procedures; preparations of bank statements, checking of staff liquidation reports, processing of staff funds requests and monthly financial reports. The position is based in Puerto Princesa City.

**Minimum Requirements**

- Graduate of Accounting
- Must have at least 2 years relevant experience preferably with audit experience
- With good communication skills
- Knowledge on quick book system is an advantage
- Willing to be relocated to Puerto Princesa City

### RESEARCH ASSOCIATE FOR THE PROTECTED AREA DATA BASE PROJECT

**Job Description:**

The Research Associate will be involved in data gathering and compilation of all pertinent information on protected areas (terrestrial, inland waters and marine) in the Philippines. The successful candidate will assist in the initial assessment of the compiled data and prepare draft reports on such assessment. This position involves working with both government and non-government institutions and building on the initial work of the First National Protected Areas Congress. The position requires an extensive travel within the country. The successful candidate will also be responsible for populating the protected areas database and the subsequent data encoding under the direct supervision of the Science Director.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

The candidates should possess the following criteria:

a. Bachelor's degree holder in the natural sciences with at least 5 years work experience in biodiversity conservation or protected areas management (M.S. graduate preferred)
b. Computer literate on MS Office applications and can perform data encoding
c. Ability to work with minimum supervision
d. Writing skills (samples of previous work required as part of application)

**Please mail your applications with comprehensive resumé not later than June 30, 2002 to:**

**The Human Resource**
**Conservation International**
**5 South Lawin, Philam Homes**
**Quezon City**
**or email: cimanila@csi.com.ph**

***Only those who short listed will be notified.***

## ALBERGUS MANAGEMENT INC.

Needs highly qualified applicant to be deployed in Metro Manila, Cavite and Cabuyao for the following positions:

### CAFETERIA SUPERVISOR/MANAGER

- ☑ graduate of Food Service Management, BSND, HRM or any related course in a reputable school;
- ☑ with at least 3 years experience in cafeteria and executive lounge operations
- ☑ computer literate
- ☑ possesses strong leadership qualities/abilities
- ☑ with pleasing personality and good to excellent oral and written communications skills
- ☑ willing to work long hours

### NUTRITIONIST/DIETITIAN

- ☑ Female, not more than 35 years of age
- ☑ graduate of BSND in a reputable school
- ☑ must be licensed
- ☑ with at least 2 years experience in cafeteria/restaurant operations
- ☑ computer literate
- ☑ willing to work long hours

### STOREROOM/STOCKROOM CLERK

- ☑ preferably male
- ☑ at least 2nd year college level
- ☑ experience in storeroom/stockroom operation required

### CASHIER

- ☑ graduate of any 2 or 4 year course
- ☑ not over 35 years of age
- ☑ preferably female
- ☑ has pleasing personality and with good oral and written communication skills

### FOOD SERVICE CREW

- ☑ at least 2nd year college level
- ☑ experience in cafeteria operation preferred but not required
- ☑ preferably female
- ☑ has pleasing personality and with good oral and written communication skills
- ☑ position open to fresh graduates

Interested applicants may mail or bring their resumé at:

**Albergus Management, Inc.**
c/o Robert R. Lamprea
#16-A Capitol Hills Rd., Old Balara, Diliman, Quezon City
(from Monday to Saturday - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM only)

The resumé should be accompanied with 2 pcs. 2x2 ID picture (recent), NBI or Police Clearance, Health Certificate and Letter of Recommendation.

## RNs, Immigrate to USA!

**Taking CGFNS exam on July 10th?**
**Want to take CGFNS exam on November 13th?**
**USA's largest Catholic hospital systems**
**For Information & Apply Direct at:**
**http:// www.ascensionhealthnurse.org**
*We pay the CGFNS Certificate fee for selected candidates!!*
*Experienced RN & New Graduate BSN welcome!*

## V.Y. DOMINGO JEWELLERS, INC.

MANUFACTURER • WHOLESALER • EXPORTER
*Makers of Finely Crafted School Rings*

**We are in search of Top Caliber Teammembers to fill in our job vacancies**

### FIELD MARKETING PROFESSIONALS

*Male or Female not more than 30 years old
*Resident of any of the ff. Areas:
**Manila, Makati, Quezon City,
Caloocan, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod
Cagayan De Oro, Naga, Bicol, Legaspi,
Palawan, CALABARZON**
*Graduate of any four year course
*With good communication skills and pleasing personality
*With excellent marketing skills, smart and customer oriented
*Hardworking, trustworthy, can work under minimum supervision
*Marketing and selling skills is a must
*Computer literate

**Interested Applicants may personally submit, fax or mail their comprehensive resume and TOR on or before June 29,2002 to:**

**HEAD OFFICE & SHOWROOM**
**V.Y.DOMINGO JEWELLERS INC.**
**UNIT 701 VFP Bldg. 2, Veterans Road**
**Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila,1630**
**fax no: (02) 8211862**

**For further inquiries, please call:**
**(02) 8380946; (02) 8384851; (02) 8390060**
**loc 119 or 128**
**look for Nenet / Cholo (0917)9559964**

**We offer competitive salary plus commissions and other incentives.**

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!!!

A Leading Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company Welcomes
**DISTRIBUTORS** for Branded Medicines.

**Areas Open:**

*Provincial Areas*
Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, La Union, Apayao, Abra, Kalinga, Ifugao, Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Laguna, Rizal, Marinduque, Mindoro, Palawan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and other Mindanao areas.

*Metro Manila Areas*
Quezon City, Manila, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Bicutan, Makati, Marikina, Pateros, Muntinlupa, Parañaque & Las Piñas.

With Ready Accreditation from Mercury Drugstores & Department of Health. Interested applicants may send their Letter of Intent and Company Profile at:

**PHARMATECHNICA LABORATORY, INC.**
#5 Morquecillo St. S.F.D.M., Quezon City
Or fax to 371-0248 or Call Tel. Nos. 371-8089 & 91

*Applications will be accepted from June 24 - July 6, 2002*

**YOUR CONNECTION TO** JOBMarket ONLINE
BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS. visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

# ComWorks, Inc.

**COMWORKS, INC.** is one of the leading distributors of mobile handsets and pre-paid phone cards in the country today. It has expanded its operations and is now distributing **Nokia Integrated Receiver Decoders** for **Dream Broadcasting System. COMWORKS, INC.** is seeking **DYNAMIC SALES AGENTS** for the following areas:

**Quezon City-Head Office**
Ms. Annie Joy Amaro (0918-9202884)
Ms. Dalyne Ondillo
Tel. Nos. (02) 931-5256/951-7995

**San Fernando, Pampanga**
Mr. Ogie Guison (0918-9202885)
Ms. Jenny Legaspi (0918-9238177)
Tel. Nos. (045) 961-7925/861-0244

**Calamba, Laguna**
Mr. Aldy Villa (0918-9205255)
Ms. Marivic Nisola
Tel. Nos. (049) 545-0570/834-0879

**Lipa City, Batangas**
Mr. Hector Leyeza (0918-9039398)
Ms. Michelle Quizon (0917-3882500)
Tel. Nos. (043) 981-2835/312-2728

**Legaspi City, Albay**
Mr. Jeff Boone (0918-9015282)
Tel. Nos. (052) 820-4373

**Legaspi City, Albay**
Mr. RB Imperial (0917-5369560)
Tel. Nos. (052) 820-3411/214-5188

**Requirements:**
- Male/Female between 22-28 years old
- Preferably college graduate of a 4-year Business course or any related field
- Sales experience necessary but not required
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Full time and/or Part-time
- Willing to work on commission basis and in any of the existing branches/offices
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

We offer high commission and allowance packages to qualified applicants.
Please call the numbers listed above for more details.
Be part of this dynamic organization.

**HURRY! Unlimited income potential. 50 positions available.**

# InnoMED Systems, Inc.

*We Provide Innovations in Medical Equipment and Devices*

**the exclusive distributor in the Philippines of Medic-Aid Ltd of United Kingdom, the world leader in nebulization, with products preferred by doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists in major Metro Manila hospitals**

**We are in search of people who are**
* career-oriented, with winning attitude
* graduates of a 4-year college course
* willing to learn and undergo training in Metro Manila

**Send your resumé, 2x2 photo, transcript of scholastic records, contact numbers and address not later than 28 June 2002 to**

**InnoMED Systems, Inc.**
**Unit 208 Continental Court Building**
**47 Annapolist Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila**

**Build your career with us. Join our expansion program as**

# Sales Representatives

**Expansion of Sales and Marketing activities in:**
* Metro Manila
* Central Luzon
* South Luzon
* Pangasinan, La Union
* Baguio

**We offer competitive salary, daily allowance, plus commissions and incentives**

# MANAGER:
## Creative Design Dept

**Responsibilities:**
- project mgmt & supervision of designers
- set direction for new development
- convert creation into models & mass production

**Requirement:**
- degree in advertising or interior designs or related field
- 8 years in creative design
- familiar with silk flowers creation & production desirable
- possess marketing, interpersonal & organizational skills
- work experience in USA or Europe a PLUS
- fluent verbal & written English
- willing to travel extensively abroad

**Remuneration:**
- attractive international standards package
- accomodation and food provided
- annual holiday
- exposure to world scale business

**PLS SEND RESUMÉ, ACHIEVEMENTS & REFERENCE TO:**
Suite 404 Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Makati and also e-mail to:
(elainhu60@hotmail.com) and
(davidkbchua@hotmail.com)

**JOB OPENING**

# CIVIL ENGINEER

Licensed, Male, 30 to 40 years old, computer literate, with driver's license.

**Submit resumé with picture to**

**GAR-ACE CONST., INC.**
**at No. 1 Minister St., Menrey Village, Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City**
**Tel. 936-07-31, Tel Fax 936-03-79.**

**SECRETARY NEEDED**
16-J Eisenhower Condominium
Eisenhower St.
San Juan, M.M.
on July 01, 2002
Bring Resumé w/ 2x2 picture

**Send your resumés instantly.**
JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

# Wanted
# Distribution Partner

A multinational group, with 20 years of experience and expertise in the designing, manufacturing and marketing of FMCG & personal care products for the mass markets, is looking for Importer - Distributor, in the Philippines, having the following attributes:

- National distribution set up.
- Established relationships with major trade partners and customers.
- Professional management structure with back office support systems
- Financially strong and ambitious to grow.

Please Email / Fax / Post within one week with complete profile to:

**International Business Manager**
**P.O. Box 41362, Dubai, U.A.E.**
**Fax : +971 4 359 2882**
**Email: rushabh@s2mglobal.com**

Needed for Manila Office :

**DRAFTSPERSON**
**To do Structural Steel and Precast details**

The successful candidate should possess the ff:
- 3 years minimum experience in the related field
- knowledge of X-steel and AutoCad programs
- motivated individual who wants to achieve results
- knowledge of building rules and regulations
- Engineering qualifications desirable but not essential
- Working knowledge with internet and related programs

Applications including bio-data, photo, 2 references and recent salary should be forwarded to
**Mr. Michael Moschou or Mr. Sotirios Neophytou**
**TEKDRAW PTY LTD, 500 Churchill Road,**
**Kilburn, South Australia, 5084**
E-mail: tekdraw@bigpond.net.au

**An expanding Law Firm is in need of**

# LAWYERS

- ✓ Eager to engage in active practice
- ✓ Must be computer literate
- ✓ Can work under pressure with minimal supervision
- ✓ Practice experience not required

Please submit in person or by post your Resumé w/ ID pic, transcript & two (2) sample pleadings to:

**Dulay Pagunsan & Ty Law Offices**
4/F Bee Lu (Imarflex) Building
103-113 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue,
Pasay City, Metro Manila

**Interested to have better life???**

*Are you any of the following:*
**computer engineer, computer science graduate, health care professional, investor, businessman**

*You are invited to attend a seminar on*

**"HOW TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT IMMIGRANT TO CANADA - THE EASIEST, HONEST AND BEST WAY"?**

Place : Quezon City Sports Club
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City
Date : June 29, 2002
Time : 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

*FOR RESERVATION PLS. CALL:* AMY *or* MAYIE 251-4729 *or* 49

**LIVE-IN CAREGIVER COURSE FOR 6 MONTHS WITH POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA**
**CALL: 251-4729 or 49**

**NEW GARMENT COMPANY IS IN NEED OF**

# ONE (1) PATTERN MAKER

- graduate of any related course
- must be knowledgeable in drafting patterns including pattern grading
- knowledgeable in sewing operations
- knowledgeable in operating Lectra pattern making machine
- has excellent knowledge in fabric shrinkage
- has good communication skill and is hardworking
- minimum 5 years experience in a garment firm for jeans and shirts
- between 30-35 years of age

Please send resumé plus 2x2 photo to:

**BOX 87**
**Classified Ads Division**
**c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer**
**G/F Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue**
**Makati City**

**Our Company is in need of:**

*Handicraft*

# DESIGNER

- 20-40 years old, Fine Arts Grad. Or undergrad, or any related vocational course.
- Creative, Artistic & Good in Sketch & Drawing
- Familiar in Novelty, Houseware & seasonal Decor (esp. Christmas)

Please send your resumé & sample of work personally at: 133V Pag-asa St., Caniogan, Pasig City.
Mon-Fri 2 to 5 PM or you may call 6409462/ 6417342.

JOB MARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

# Opportunity knocks but once.

## We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

## in Luzon

*Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa* INQUIRER, *convenient na sulit pa!*

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Mr. Victor Navarro
Times City News Agency #58B Province Alley
2nd Floor Mahatma Lopchood Center Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 443-6883/443-3175/443-4361
Mr. Ray Evasco
Cosa Liwan Agency #58 Magnolia Alley
Mahatma Lopchood Center
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-6178
Mr. Juanito Dacoe
J&B Agency
Palong Lot Upper Mission Street
(Fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel. Nos. 444-6326, (074) 304-2611
Cellphone No. 0918-3800178

**Batangas City**
Mr. Romero Chan and Ms. Wilma C. Dayrit
RVC Newsstand, 1F Burgos Street, Batangas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-4428
Mr. Ramon P. Perez and Ms. Dodie Bimon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
7&8 Perez Building, 480 Brang Street,
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 723-0818/(043)980-9942

**Bulacan**
Mr. Richard Vega
Puerto Vega Tabangtog Matias Bulacan
Telefax (044) 922-1214 Easy Call 141-261884
Mr. Rosendo D. Gregorio
263 Rizal Avenue Barangay Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 766-1259
Office: Core Communications
Bulacan Shopping Center 2nd Floor (UHO Building
Serves 91 Poblacion Bulacan, Bulacan

**Cabanatuan City**
Mr. Ruel Cayanan
#7 Barangka Street, Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-0855 E-mail: runeg@hotmail.com
City Supermart
Bonifacio Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-1148
Mr. Ngohayen Palileo
#837 Burgos Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-2552

**Dagupan City**
Minister John L. Manzano
Nueva Ecija Travel & Tours
Poblacion North Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax No. (078) 3267177

**Pangasinan**
Mr. Noel Cabuena
Lot 4 Block 25 Phase II
Corner Sr. Pearl and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 963-3718/808-1618/ 808-6248
Cagayan Building, Dolores Homes Site
McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. (045) 961-3787, e-mail: chelsmith@pacific.net.ph

**Pampanga**
Mr. Wu Chua
JWC Cargo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
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Tel. No. (075) 522-2328 Telefax (075) 522-0079
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Tel. No. (075) 523-6504/529-5812

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Leyson's Merchant
E. Ibarra Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. (048)434-2300/433-2514/433-2561
Mr. Tomas Chay Tan
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Tel. No. (048) 433-2830 Cellno. (0918) 3397727

**Tuguegarao**
Mr. Richmond Pobre
Adjoining Newsstand Basilio Tuguegarao Centro Market
Gomez Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Tel. No. (078) 844-1180/844-0064
E-mail: pobre@tug.powernet.ph

**Tarlac City**
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F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City
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Fax No. (045) 982-1758

**Laguna**
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Residence: #10 Mauban Street
Barangka Plastic Site, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Telfax: 5402331-37/5405407/ 3023561/2818-2559
Store: 4230 J.P. Rizal Street, Calauan Laguna
Tel. No. (049) 531-4809
Ms. Susan D. Bayley
MSC Data Exchange Co.
55 Paseo de Escuderos, San Pedro City
Tel. No. (049) 562-4587 Fax No. (049) 562-1164
Email: sbayley@mail.edu.ph

**Batangas**
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Lola's Store, Rizal Street, Calauan, Batangas
Tel. No. (078) 652-2519
Ms. Catalina Javier
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454 Provincial Road, Centro East, Santiago City
Tel. No. (078) 682-8555/682-3408
Email: tezjavier@mozcom.com

**Legazpi City**
Ms. Irene Bonifacio
Brgy. 34 Cmt. Site, Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-1274/480-8099
Cathy P. Bendon
EM Prime Marketing
Quezon Avenue, Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 214-3243/214-3648/820-3748

**Lipa City**
Ms. Rachel Manrique c/o Ms. Rose Perez
Liberal Bookstore, Plaza Building, 154 Kalaw St.
(near Liberal Bank), 4217 Lipa City
Tel. No. (043) 756-0729/756-1205
Email: rperez@liberal.com.ph

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Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (08822) 722-530

**Grandstar News and Magazines**
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Cagayan de Oro City
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Telefax: (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com

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**Marquez News and Magazine Agency**
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Duterte Street, Davao City
(fronting Galeria Hotel)
Tel. No. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/ 221-3424/228-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-3927/227-4410

**General Santos**
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
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Tel. Nos. (083)552-3352
Telefax No. (083) 301-8731

**Pagadian City**
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Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
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Pfizer mEDex®
MEDICAL EXPERTS ON ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION
E.D.torial

This week's columnist:

Lou Querubin, MD
Associate Clinical Professor,
University of the Philippines
College of Medicine
Visiting Consultant, Department of Psychiatry,
The Medical City

# SEX AND THE MIND
## (Part 1)

In the previous mEDex E.D.torials, we discussed common diseases implicated with Erectile Dysfunction (ED), such as diabetes and cardiovascular ailments. In this week's article, we will discuss psychological factors implicated as possible causes of ED. These include depression, anxiety, lack of sexual education and deterioration in the overall quality of the person's intimate relationship.

**What impact does sexual dysfunction have on a person's quality of life and interpersonal relationships?**

people need to value intimacy within their relationship if they want their sexual desire to remain strong.

Several studies have suggested that lack of intimacy is an important contributing factor to sexual dysfunction. It has led sex therapists to conclude that people need to value intimacy within their relationship if they want their sexual desire to remain strong.

Sexual dysfunction has traditionally been defined as a disturbance in the sexual response cycle or as the experience of pain during sexual intercourse. There are 4 phases in the sexual response cycle :

1. Desire
2. Excitement
3. Orgasm and
4. Resolution.

The disorders affecting the ***desire phase*** involve a lack of desire for sexual activity including sexual fantasy. One's dislike of sex is also found to be closely related to phobia.

The ***excitement phase*** includes Erectile Dysfunction (ED) or impotence in the male and the inability to achieve sexual arousal in the female.

The ***orgasmic phase*** disorders refer to inhibited orgasm in both gender and premature ejaculation among males.

In the 70's, sexual dysfunction was regarded as a result of psychological factors. With the growing knowledge about the physical causes of sexual dysfunction, we now know that men who suffer from ED, suffer from both psychological and physical causes.

Several studies have shown that there exists an association between intimacy, quality-of-life and sexual dysfunction among men and women. One study (McCabe 1997) showed that all aspects of intimacy were lower among sexually dysfunctional men. Results were not as discriminating among the female respondents. Another one, (Snyder and Berg 1983) found that for both men and women, sexual dysfunction was associated with the partner's lack of response to sexual requests, infrequent intercourse and lack of concern for the partner.

Donnelly (J. Sexual Research, 1993) found that respondents who were in marriages with low sexual activity reported lower levels of marital happiness and fewer shared activities.
The lack of sexual activity seems to imply the lower levels of "connectedness" between couples. Marital satisfaction also reduced the level of stress as well as the level of sexual dysfunction in men. Men with higher levels of intimacy may cope better with stress and so experience lower levels of sexual dysfunction. and Gilliland, 1993)

Marital satisfaction also reduced the level of stress as well as the level of sexual dysfunction in men. Men with higher levels of intimacy may cope better with stress and so experience lower levels of sexual dysfunction.

**Ask your Doctor**

If your relationship with your spouse is suffering because of poor sexual health, it is best for you to consult with your doctor. Your doctor will be able to help you determine treatment options best for you and/or your spouse. You may be asked to go through psycho-therapy if the source of the problem are unresolved conflicts between you and your spouse, rehabilitation if substance abuse is present, and medical intervention if the cause of the problem is a physical illness such as depression, diabetes or hypertension.

**How do psychiatric problems affect sex and expressions of sexuality?**

Psychological problems can be both a result of and a cause of ED. For example, a person suffering from ED may experience depression because he is unable to maintain a satisfying sexual relationship with his wife. On the other hand, patients with depression may experience a general decrease in libido as part of the symptoms of illness. Like depression, anxiety and other unexplained fears can also cause inhibited sexual desire. A person with an anxiety disorder is generally unable to relax, feels tense or irritable and often has his thoughts and feelings focused elsewhere. This state of the mind alone can interfere with the experience of sexual pleasure and inhibit orgasm.

Medicines that treat psychological disorders may also contribute to sexual dysfunction or ED.

**WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU...**

Text us a tip on how couples can get in the mood for sex at **0917-8PFIZER (0917-8734937)** or **0918-9PFIZER (0918-9734937)**. Lucky texters will get a chance to win a Pfizer gift pack. Unique and interesting tips will be featured in the next column.

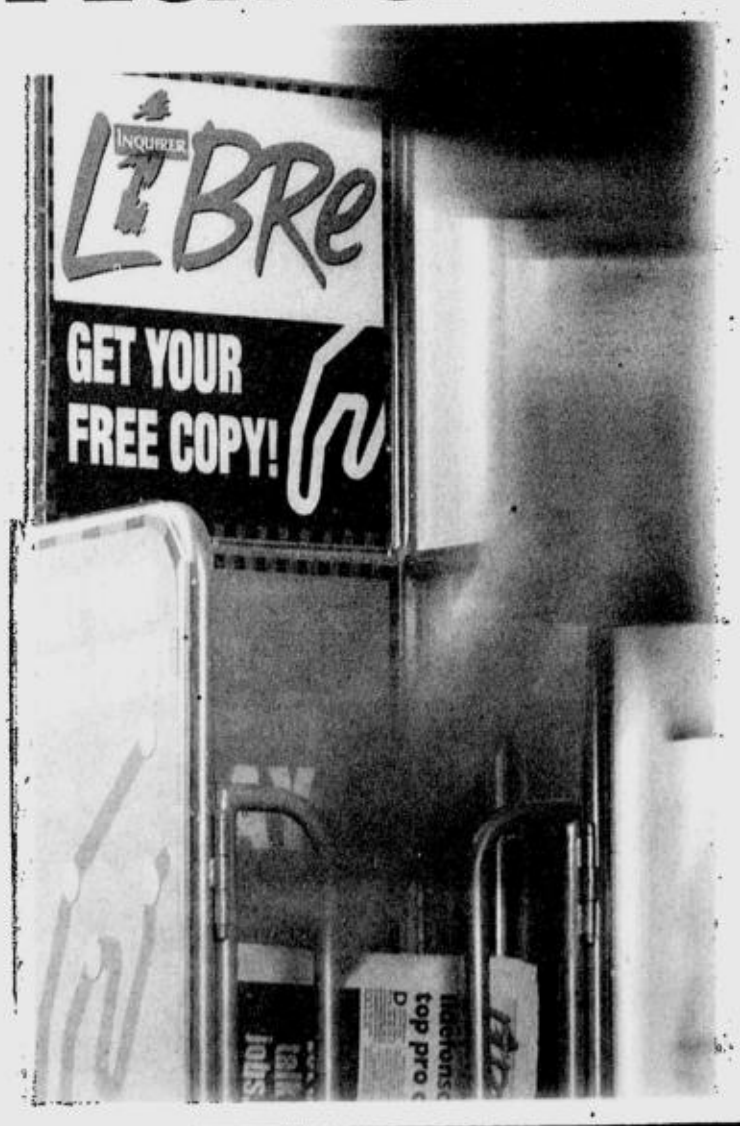
To answer, text PFI (space), ED (space), your tip (space), your age (space). You may also opt to type your name.

Example: **PFI ED Find the right venue 40 Paul Reyes**

Should you have questions about E.D. or comments regarding this column, please write to: Pfizer mEDex (mEDex@Pfizer.com)
*Pfizer, Inc. 23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines*

Pabilis nang pabilis, paaga nang paaga maubos ang LIBRE!

Kuha Na!




Ang Inquirer Libre ay makukuha umpisa 6:00 ng umaga, Lunes hanggang Biyernes, sa mga sumusunod na LRT at MRT stations:

**LRT stations:** Monumento, 5th Avenue, Abad Santos, Blumentritt, Tayuman, Carledo, Pedro Gil, Gil Puyat, Libertad, Edsa at Baclaran

**MRT stations:** North Avenue, Quezon Avenue, GMA Kamuning, Cubao, Shaw, Boni, Guadalupe, Magallanes at Taft

LIBRE
*The best things in life are Libre*

RAMOS (extreme left) during the awards night for UE 1971 top graduates

# Orphaned at 11, exec rises to top CPA exams here and in the US

From page B1

and in 1994 Mrs. Gotianun talked to Ramos again and this time asked him if he could come back to the Philippines. She said the family got a license to put up another bank and she wanted him to set it up.

"I was really very reluctant to do it. I was happy in the US but because it was hard to say no to Mrs. Gotianun, I just told her that I would go if she could convince my wife. I was confident that my wife would be able to say no to her. But she could not. They offered her a job too, so my wife and I and our three children came back in 1994," Ramos says.

Ramos then helped set up East West Banking Corp. It was the first bank to be set up when the banking sector was liberalized under former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel C. Singson.

Prior to East West, the last time a license was given out was in 1971.

"We set up the bank to cater to the middle market. I believe that there is still a place for a small bank to cater to the middle market—both individuals and corporations," Ramos says.

And Ramos has always been able to accomplish his goals, even as a child. He admits that he always had burning ambition.

Ramos says ambition perhaps was what drove him to become the person that he is now. This native of Lipa, Batangas could have easily gone another way, the easier path of a vagrant or a bitter, depressed person. He certainly had enough reasons, too.

His father died when he was five, followed by his mother when he was 11. His eldest brother was struck by meningitis when he was three years old and had to stay at home. He had two younger brothers to take care of. All they had left was their maternal grandmother who took them in.

But instead of wallowing in depression like many other people his age would have done, Ramos decided to build a better life for himself and his family.

"When you do not have parents, you learn that you can rely only on yourself. Nobody else can really help you except God," Ramos says.

Education was his means to a better life and he worked hard at it. He was a consistent honor student in the public schools of Lipa until high school. Ramos' grandmother did not have enough money to put him through college but fortunately he got a full scholarship at UE.

Ramos lived with a cousin in Tondo and he would walk about 5 km every day from his house near the North Harbor to UE on Recto to attend school, and his hard work certainly paid off in the end.

"I have always set goals for myself from the time I was a kid until now and then I make sure that I meet those goals. When I first started working, for example, I told myself that I should be vice president by the time I turned 24 and I did it," Ramos says.

Ramos also credits Mercedes Gotianun for having taught him the finer points of being an entrepreneur.

"I already had experience with the technical part of the job with my work in SGV but she taught me to think like an entrepreneur, to take risks. I also learned the virtues of honesty, integrity and hard work and they were hard working. They think and breathe business," Ramos shares.

Ramos says he tries to impart the same lessons and virtues to the people who work for him in East West. He, however, admits that he sometimes gets impatient because he wants immediate results.

THE RAMOS family in the United States

RAMOS during oathtaking ceremonies for new CPAs at the Manila Hotel

"It is my philosophy that things can be done easily. There are always solutions to problems and the reason that I drive them to work hard is because they can see that I work hard too. I can dip my hands in details because I know their work," Ramos says.

He, however, says that he is not the type of manager who calls his people after work or during weekends to check up on deadlines.

"I always leave work at the office and I expect the same with the staff. There is nothing you can do after work anyway so just leave it until the next day," Ramos says.

Ramos also gives credit to his wife whom he describes as his best critic.

"I believe that a person cannot be successful without the support of the family. My wife also has a career, she is first vice president with Filinvest Land. We complement each other. We are each other's critic but we take all of it positively," Ramos says.

His children likewise benefited from the positive energy at home. Eldest daughter Katrina is in her third year at Columbia University with a 3.75 grade point average (the highest is 4). Second daughter Katherine is a sophomore at the University of Southern California taking up journalism with a 3.94 GPA while youngest daughter Kara is still in 2nd year high school.

Like his daughters, Ramos says he is on a continuous learning process. These days, he tries to learn more about information technology and how it could improve the bank.

He does these things because he has set another goal for himself: to make East West Bank a major player in the banking industry.

# Livelihood lecturer . . .

From page B3

To get whiter paper, powdered chlorox is added during the beating process.

The softened and whitened fiber is then washed of chemicals.

"In the entire process, we use a lot of water as washing the fiber requires a big volume of water," Exconde said.

Only the paper trimmings are not cooked. They are soaked in water and caustic soda solution and go through the pulp beater separately.

After beating, it is ready for papermaking.

"In papermaking, sometimes we use 100 percent abaca, sometimes, we combine it with the paper trimmings. That depends on the clients' demands," Esconde said.

The last stage in handmade papermaking is the pulp stock preparation. This stage mixes pulp with dye or any accent such as leaves and petals from the family garden.

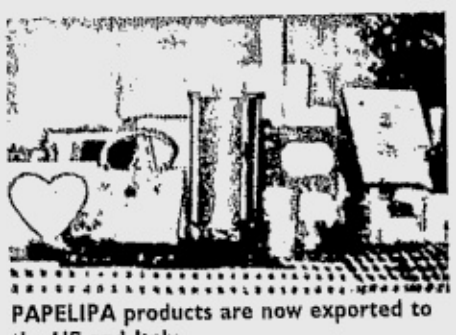
The leaves and petals are fossilized first before they are used as accents and mixed with the paper up to a desired consistency.

The result could be a thick or thin paper complete with colors and accents that can be turned into paperboards for greeting cards, calling cards, wrapping paper, lampshades, bags, jewelry and tissue boxes, paper flowers, glass votives and memo books.

"When we started production, we were able to produce only 200 sheets a day. Now, it is up to 3,500 sheets daily," Exconde said.

Papelipa upgraded its machines only in 1997, when the demand for its products came in volumes and the company could not cope with the export requirement.

The backyard plant has also expanded from a hut into a 2,000-square-meter work area.



PAPELIPA products are now exported to the US and Italy.

### Recognition

As Papelipa gained recognition, a microfinance foundation offered it a loan.

Last April, after being featured on a national TV show, Papelipa was chosen by the foundation to display its products at the Center for International Trade and Exposition's exhibit of Philippine-made products.

From that exhibit, different companies from Italy and the United States were added to Papelipa's list of international clients.

"Papelipa has grown in recent years because we didn't give up. When the charcoal business went down, instead of giving up, we shifted to another business and held on to it," Exconde said.

The business venture gave her fulfillment. Papelipa not only gave her artistic inclination a boost but also provided a venue for her personal growth as the city government has recognized her work.

From a lecturer who helped other people create an alternative source of living, Exconde has grown into a successful businesswoman herself.

# Reviving the 100-year-old natural dye industry

By Frank Cimatu
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—A hundred years ago, indigo was among the biggest and finest products coming from the country. Manila, it was often said, came from the word, *anil* or indigo. But with the coming of commercial dyes, it can be said that natural dye slowly died a natural death.

But not in Abra and Ifugao where the natural dyes industry has been revived.

Abra has bolstered its reputation as the natural dye capital of the country with a P4-million fund assistance from the Department of Agriculture.

Patricio Ananayo, DA agribusiness chief in the Cordilleras, said the P4 million would be used mostly for the cultivation and harvesting of *achuete* or *annatto* (Bixa orellana L.)

"It's not as if we're waiting for buyers. The buyers are already knocking at our doors," Ananayo said.

The Manila-based Marigold Commodities Corp. wanted 100 cavans of *achuete* seeds to be delivered during the harvest season from December to March.

The DA through the Timpuyog Dagiti Iina ti Abra (Federation of Mothers in Abra) has set up an *achuete* nursery in Boliney town.

The DA through Marigold and the Philippine Food processors and Exporters Association also put up a hectare farm in Tinoc, Ifugao, for the cultivation of *achuete*.

DA also hoped to train Tinoc farmers in cultivating ginseng, lemon grass, *pandan* and roses.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the Tinoc project is seen as a way to discourage farmers in remote areas in Cordillera from cultivating marijuana.

The DA sees the natural dye industry to be as profitable as marijuana.

About $20 million worth of dyes, tannins and printing pigments are imported to the Philippines yearly.

DELIM pores over samples of Abra's indigenous dyes.

Many of these dyes, particularly those used in textiles, are also dyes that are banned in European countries because they are carcinogenic.

This is a reason the Philippine garment industry has a hard time penetrating the European market, the Philippine Textile Research Industry said.

The PTRI has made studies on using *achuete*, *talisay* leaves, young coconut husks and betel nut as natural dyes.

The Katutubong Kulay Association and the Amganad Indigenous Artists Association, under the auspices of former First Lady Amelita Ramos, fashion designer Patis Tesoro and Mayor Ma. Zita Valera of Bangued, Abra, also looked for other sources of dye used by Tinggians of Abra on their *ikat*.

Among the plants used were the bark of the *kariskis* plant, twigs of the *kutakot* or *sabawil*, *duhat* or *lomboy* bark, dried leaves of luam or teak, *samak* bark, kapok bark, *dekap* or *manzanitas* bark, *sibukao* or *sepang* wood, *unig* or yellow ginger and *achuete*.

In 1998, then Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara gave P4 million to Abra for the development of its natural dye industry.

The money was used for the establishment of nurseries in the remote areas of Abra.

Marigold Corp. is interested in the white flower-bearing *achuete* because it yields the highest content of bixin or the coloring pigment of the seeds. Bixin is used in food processing.

Half of the bixin in the country is used to give the golden color of cheese while 20 percent is used in fish processing and feed manufacturing.

Bixin is also effective in staining wood, according to a study made by the Forest Products Research and Development Institute in Laguna.

Ananayo said Abra farmers are finding it hard to supply Marigold. He cited the bad roads, poor harvesting and handling as among the problems faced by these *achuete* producers.

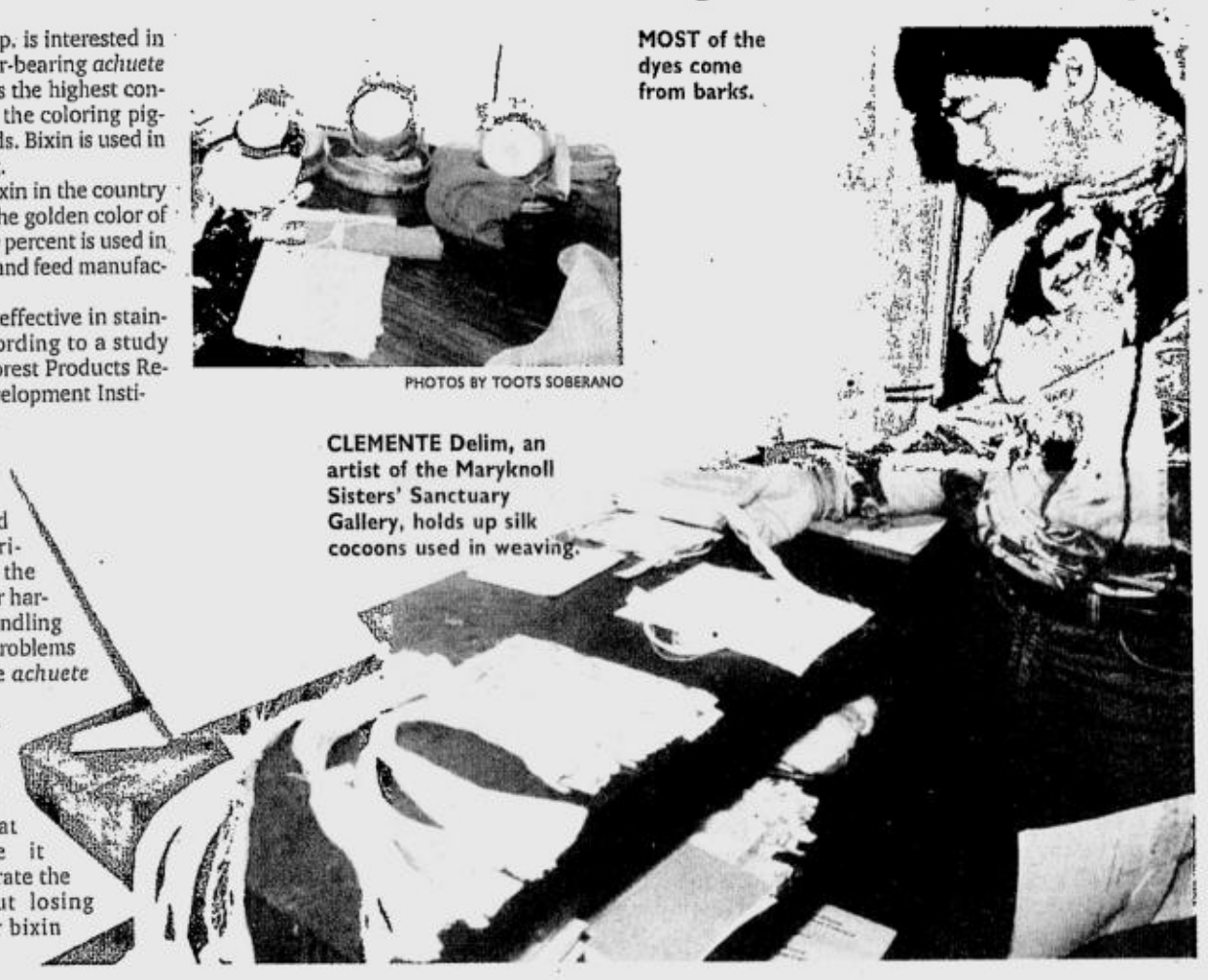
DA Cordillera is also trying to fabricate the *achuete* huller that would make it easier to separate the seeds without losing much of their bixin content.



PHOTOS BY TOOTS SOBERANO

CLEMENTE Delim, an artist of the Maryknoll Sisters' Sanctuary Gallery, holds up silk cocoons used in weaving.

MOST of the dyes come from barks.



# Stage set for handsets duel in Asian region

SINGAPORE—The stage is set for an intense battle to capture the hearts and hands of mobile phone users in Asia as the world's top manufacturers roll out a new range of color-screen models with all the bells and whistles imaginable.

Asia is poised to be a key testing ground for the telecom giants in their push to promote Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) given its insatiable appetite for the latest in technology, experts told AFP at the CommunicAsia 2002 trade fair.

"I think Asia will drive faster (toward MMS) than Europe," said Arie Kuijt, executive vice president of European information and communications company CMG Wireless Data Solutions.

Other experts also agreed mobile phone makers would see the region as the ideal playground to test market acceptance of the MMS-enabled handsets as Asian subscribers are already among the most technology-savvy anywhere.

In Singapore, where the mobile phone penetration rate is around 73 percent out of a population of just under 4 million, subscribers change their handsets for the latest model every nine months on average.

"They will view Asia, particularly Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore, as a showcase for the MMS development," said Neil Montefiore, chief executive of Singapore's second biggest telecom operator MobileOne Asia Pte. Ltd.

"It is quite likely the adoption rate here will be faster than that of Europe so they will want to point to somewhere successful just as people have pointed to Japan with the i-Mode," he said, referring to the Japanese service allowing Internet access via mobile phones.

Unlike Short Messaging Service (SMS) which is highly popular despite being restricted to short text clips, MMS allows color pictures, animation, recorded sound and even video to be transmitted on existing wireless systems.

A number of new handset models showcased at CommunicAsia featured sharp and bright color screens, as well as complicated ringing tones to accompany the visual effects.

Leading handset makers Nokia and Sony Ericsson made clear Asia, which is still growing as sales in mature markets like North America and Europe taper off, would play a huge role in their plans to launch MMS-enabled mobile phones.

Rival manufacturers from South Korea, Japan, the United States and Europe are also riding on the multimedia bandwagon.

Sony Ericsson, formed last year between Swedish telecom powerhouse Ericsson and Japan's electronics giant Sony Corp., sees vast opportunities despite varying degrees of market maturity in the region.

"This diverse development represents interesting opportunities for (the) company," said Katsumi Ihara, president of Sony Ericsson.

Based on research carried out by the company, corporate vice president for marketing Philip Vanhoutte said "the age barrier is indifferent," and that "three out of four (subscribers) across the globe" would use MMS features.

The region's mobile subscriber base now numbers 310 million, about a third of the 930 million users globally, industry players said.

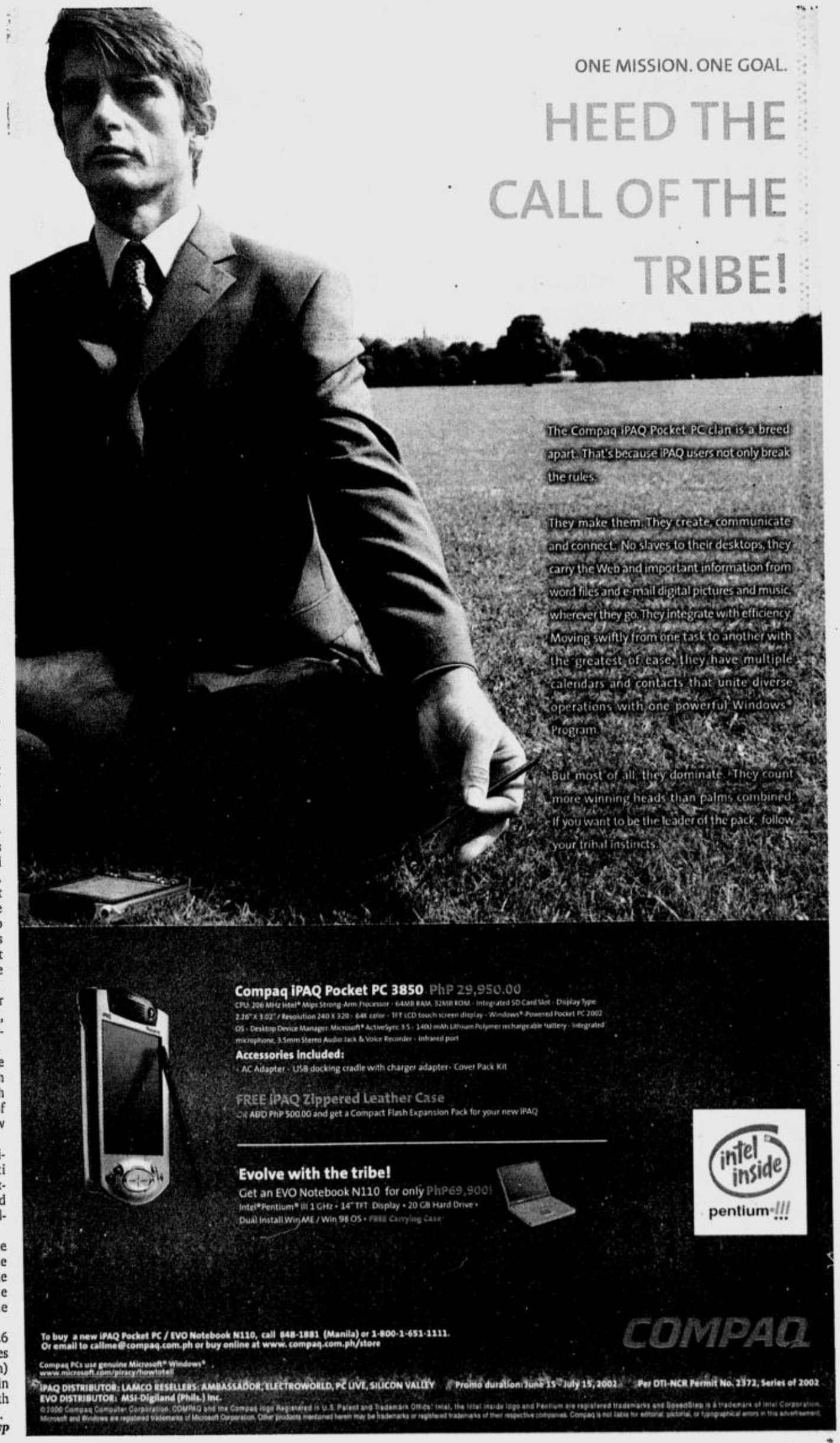
Sony Ericsson's Ihara said the penetration rate in the region stood at just 7 percent, which meant there was still plenty of room for more growth, a view shared by close rival Nokia.

The Finnish company's president for mobile phones Matti Alahuhta said the region was expected to continue to show "good growth this year in terms of handset volumes."

"Going forward, we continue to see a promising trend in the region as Asians are among the largest consumers of mobile phones and services in the world," Alahuhta said.

The region accounted for 26 percent of Nokia's total revenues of 31.2 billion euros ($29 billion) in 2001, up from 23 percent in the previous year and the growth trend is set to continue, he said.

*AFP*



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## United States Embassy
Manila, Philippines

### INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), an agency of the U.S. Government, plans to solicit proposals for construction of a new Radio Transmitting Station at Poro Point, La Union Province.

The following contracts will be solicited:

- Demolition of two concrete and steel aircraft hangers, several smaller buildings, concrete paving, and site utilities at the former Wallace Air Station. This contract is expected to be in the $250,000 to $500,000 range.
- Construction of a new 960 square meter concrete and masonry transmitter building, guardhouse, equipment pads, utilities, electric power feeder, security walls, fencing, site improvements, optional fuel storage and standby generator, and related items. This contract is expected to be in the $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 range.
- Construction of a new five tower antenna array for a 1.0 mega-watt medium wave radio transmitter, transmission line from Transmitter Building, and related facilities. This contract is expected to be in the $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 range.

All work will be to U.S. specifications as well as comply with local codes. All contracts will require performance and payment bonds. Only contractors who have experience with this type of work will be considered qualified to bid.

If you believe your company can meet these requirements, please submit a Letter of Interest and company profile. Include a list of similar projects completed and in progress. Submit to:

**Ken Leonard, Construction Manager**
**U.S. Embassy, IBB/PTS**
**1201 Roxas Boulevard**
**Ermita 1000, Manila**

**Phone (45) 982-0254**
**Fax (45) 982-1402**
**E-mail: KLeonard@phi.ibb.gov**

NOTE: This is not a solicitation for bids. Actual solicitations for bids are expected to be sent to qualified contractors within 30 to 90 days.

(PDI – June 11, 16, 19 & 23, 2002)

## National Power Corporation

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract : Sp02-MDPP-SPUG.Lw-003, CONSTRUCTION OF POWER FACILITIES (CIVIL WORKS), AND DISMANTLING, HAULING, ERECTION & INSTALLATION OF ELECTRO-MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SUPPLY OF BALANCE OF PLANT FOR 1 X 3.6 MW DAIHATSU DIESEL GENERATING SET AT MARINAWA DIESEL POWER PLANT, BATO, CATANDUANES.
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all construction plant, labor, materials, supplies, tools, equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by NPC) and other incidentals necessary for the construction of the extension building of the powerhouse at Marinawa DPP in Bato, Catanduanes, dismantling of electro-mechanical equipment at PB 107 mooted at NPC Shipyard, Naga, Cebu, and hauling of the same to Marinawa DPP. Project duration shall be One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days counted from the effective date of the Contract up to the Provincial Acceptance of the Work.

   The budget for the Contract to be Bid is P19.94 M from the Internal Cash Generation of NPC.
3. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.

   License : at least "Category A - General Building"
   Registration : at least "Medium B - Building and Industrial Plant"
4. Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NPC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
5. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **June 24, 2002 at The Secretariat, SPUG Bids and Awards Committee, 2nd Floor, Training Center Building, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City** upon presentation of original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of Eight Hundred Pesos (P 800.00) per copy.

   Contact Person : Ms. S. O. Ilagan
   E-mail : mmssspug@mozcom.com
   Telephone : 922-84-49
   Facsimile : 920-01-20
6. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **5:00 PM of July 8, 2002** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. NPC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **R.C. CASTILLO**
*BAC Chairman*
*Small Power Utilities Group*

(PDI–June 23 & 30, 2002)

## Republic of the Philippines
**Asian Development Bank-Assisted**
**Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project**
**City of Tagbilaran**

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date:
ADB Loan No. 1367-PHI
MDF Subloan No. 0496-PHI
Subproject No. 005-PHI

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank, herein referred to as the "Bank", in various currencies towards the cost of the Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under contract(s) or the Supply and Delivery of various Sanitary Landfill Equipment.
2. The City of Tagbilaran, the Implementing Agency for the Project, now invites sealed bids from the eligible bidders from member countries of the Bank for the supply and delivery of various Sanitary Landfill equipment as follows:

   Item No. 1 Two (2) units Garbage Compactor (Waste Collection)
   Item No. 2 One (1) unit Backhoe (Excavator)
   Item No. 3 One (1) unit Vibratory Compactor
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

   THE CHAIRMAN
   Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee
   PRMDP-PAU Office, Second Floor City Hall Building
   City of Tagbilaran
4. A complete set of bidding documents can be acquired by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 3,000.00 per Contract Package. Bid Documents will be available on **July 3, 2002** until **September 3, 2002**. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 20, 2002** at 2:00 in the afternoon at the above address.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security or Bank Guarantee of Two and Half percent (2.5%) of the total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders on or before 2:00 in the afternoon, **September 3, 2002** immediately after which bids will be publicly opened.
6. Bidders may submit bids for any or all of the items and quotations must be for any or all the equipment items and at full quantity/ies described under this contract package being bidded.
7. The City of Tagbilaran reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSE V. TORRALBA**
*City Mayor*
*Chairman, PBAC*

(PDI–June 19, 21 & 23, 2002)


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## People, Events & Products

# WSI now accepting exhibitors for Bazaar

WORLDBEX Services International (WSI), known to be the most aggressive player in the trade exhibition industry in the country today, announces that it is now accepting applications for those who would like to join the World Bazaar Festival 2002, truly the country's biggest and grandest Christmas bazaar ever, slated to happen from Dec. 5 to 9 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

The World Bazaar Festival certainly had an auspicious beginning when it was first launched last December. More than 40,000 shoppers came to check out the 500 booths filled with the best buys in town. It was such a phenomenal success that WSI decided to make it an annual event with the same – if not better – fanfare and a great product list that no bazaar can equal.

A part of the World Bazaar Festival's success is the comfort and convenience it provides to shoppers. Shopping for fantastic bargains becomes a more fun experience when it is done in a spacious and fully air-conditioned area. The World Trade Center, the preferred venue for international expositions, definitely meets those criteria, including a hassle-free parking area where safety is held above all else. It is also strategically located, away from the crowds of shopping malls and the maddening traffic.

The World Bazaar Festival is also a perfect opportunity for Filipinos with busy lifestyles. Pioneering the concept of the largest night market in Manila, the bazaar is open from 10 a.m. to midnight and offers Filipinos a chance to buy their Christmas gifts even after 9 p.m., closing time for most malls. That allows shoppers an additional three hours to choose the perfect gift for their loved ones.

This year the World Bazaar further ups the ante with great gift selections and activities that the whole family can enjoy. Two shopping sections, the Philippine Village and the International Village, will be set up for great shopping finds of quality goods from here and from various countries all over the globe. Fine wines and spirits will also be up for sale for a more festive holiday.

The popular Finnish Santa Claus who opened last year's festival will also be part of the festivities. Aside from special photo opportunities that the whole family can partake, Santa Claus will also share with kids favorite Christmas stories. Kids may also have their fun and play at the bazaar's Playland and join the fun, activities or enjoy the fantastic musical shows. Teenagers, on the other hand, will have a blast in "GameWorld," a haven of fantastic electronic games.

More importantly, the World Bazaar Festival is a shopping paradise that gives joy to the children of Bantay Bata 163, the main beneficiary of the festival. The first festival had been able to donate P1 million to Bantay Bata, and it hopes to surpass that amount this year.

For more information and booth reservation, call WSI at 531-6350 or 531-6374 with fax 533-2026. It can also be reached via e-mail shows@worldbex.ph. Visit WSI at 488 Boni Avenue corner San Joaquin Street, Mandaluyong City or its official website www.worldbex.com.

**'SUMMER TRIP' TO MUSEO PAMBATA**

The Museo Pambata Foundation, in cooperation with WS Family Foundation, had invited close to 1,500 children from poor communities in Manila, Quezon City, and Taguig to participate in the 'Summer Trip sa Museo Pambata,' a program that treats underprivileged kids to a free tour of the country's premier children's interactive museum. The program started May 7 until June 13. Hired buses brought children from Smokey Mountain, Payatas, and other depressed areas to Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard in Manila every Tuesday and Thursday. Aside from the museum visit, the kids were also treated to lunch and were given a storybook and toy each, as a remembrance of their experience. The 'summer trip' was sponsored by the WS Family Foundation established by businessman and philanthropist Washington SyCip.

## *Corso Marconi goes to Davao, opens 7th stockhouse in June*

IN LINE with its continued expansion plans and thrust of making Italian fashion accessible to more Filipinos, the Marconi Fashion Group (MFG) announced that it has opened its 7th Corso Marconi stockhouse in Davao this June. This will be its third outside Metro Manila, coming in the heels of its successful stores in Cebu and Bacolod. Its other branches are located at Morse corner Marconi Streets in Makati (main), Robinsons Galleria, SM Manila and Festival Supermall, Alabang.

Corso Marconi Davao is located at Km. 6, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Lanang, Davao City. It occupies a two-storey structure with 300 sqm of space filled with racks and shelves of quality Italian shirts, skirts, pants, dresses, suits, shoes, belts, bags and other accessories at up to 70 percent off their original prices. Among the Italian labels available are Versace, Dolce and Gabbana, Trussardi, Guiducci, Ellen Capellino, Max Mara, Max & Co., Pietrogrande, Pal Zileri, Rose D., Sintomo, Nantucket Island, Francesca Falconi, Emmegi, Marco Gabbriellini, Navajos and more.

Meanwhile, MFG is also currently looking at other key areas outside Metro Manila for its future shops.

MFG is under the Linea Italia Group (LIG), the country's largest Italian fashion chain. The first Corso Marconi shop started out as a warehouse in 1996, initially operating only on weekends. The growing demand for its merchandise prompted it to open seven days a week.

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# OBITUARIES

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*When I face the final curtain, O Lord, let me sing one last song of surrender, my life, my labours and pains, and everything I did my way.*

## ALOYSIUS PACELLI ICAMINA DE LA CRUZ

**of Kalibo, Aklan**
**President, De la Cruz Institute of Business and Industry**

*Peacefully joined his Creator on Monday, June 17, 2002 at the age of 54.*

His loving wife **Celia**; children **Beato Alessandro III** and **Michelle**, **Aloysius Pacelli II** and **Revielynne Joy**, **Makarius Tel-Aviv**, **Buenas Aires Celi**, **Arik Paolo Isaiah**, and **Alistair Kashmir**; grandchildren **Raphael Louis** and **Jakob Emilio**; his beloved father **Dr. Beato Aguirre de la Cruz** (†) and mother, **Josefina**; brothers and sisters **Advers Zita**, **Gualterio Zola**, **Jo Aida Celeste**, **Grazia Athena**, **Beato Arniel Vinci** and **John Guidon Macciri**; brothers-in-law **Bjorn**, **Benie**, **Lolly**, **Arturo**, **Rolando**, and **Rene**; sisters-in-law, **Eleanor**, **Fe**, **Cynthia**, **Hediliza**, **Gilda**, **Juana** and **Perla**; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends mourn his passing and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the De la Cruz residence, D. Maagma Avenue, Kalibo, Aklan.

Interment will be at the De la Cruz Mausoleum, Milagrosa Cemetery, Kalibo, Aklan on Wednesday, June 26, 2002 after the 1:00 pm Mass and Necrological services at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

## *Jesus "Jess" San Juan Sayoc*

*Beloved husband of* ***Daniela Virata Sayoc***

*The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.*
*He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me*
*to quiet pools of fresh water, He gives me new strength.*
*He guides me in the right path, as He has promised.*

*Psalm 23*

*Have a wonderful journey home! We love you!*

*Your beloved wife* ***Nelly***

*Your children* ***Cora, Charit & Joey, Mayette & Paul, Lulu & Bob, Josie & Charlie, Nick & Carol***

*Your grandchildren* ***JC, Mikee, Angela & Randy, PJ & Jen, Luigi, Noelle, Carlitos, Diego, Dani, Melissa, Enrique, Neil, Xavi, Nina, Noreen & Nian***

*Your great grandchildren* ***Ianna, Sabina, Iya & Raquel***

*His remains lie at*
*Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church,*
*Philam Village, Las Piñas City.*

*Interment will be on Thursday, 27th of June, 2002*
*at the Imus Municipal Cemetery, Imus, Cavite*

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."*

*John 3:16*

## Sister MARIE JOSEPHE DE CRITS (WENCESLAS), ICM

*Died in the Grace of our Lord*
*on June 21, 2002 at the age of 82*
*in the 55th year of her religious missionary life.*

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM Sisters), her family, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on June 24, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at the Queen of Peace Chapel, Quezon City, after which interment will follow at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery.

We, the family of

## ENGR. RODRIGO SULAPAS PEPINO

*who joined his Creator on June 15, 2002.*

His loving wife **Yaya**; children **Chee** and **Mannix Tecson**, **Joy** and **Marsha Pepino**, **Bu** and **Pat-Pat Pepino**, **Karis** and **Myke Catral**, **Pong** and **Tata Pepino**, **Jaybee** and **Alai Pepino**, **Meloui**; and grandchildren **Nadine**, **Nathan**, **Paulo**, **Issa**, **Mel**, **Innah**, **Ian Boy**, **Nina**, **Maika**, **Miggo**, **Mykee**, **Mikka**, **Miggl**, **Mikki**, **RJ Boy**, **Xurshia**, and **Raffi Boy**; and our **Mana Iyay**, sincerely express our appreciation and gratitude to all of you who, in many ways comforted us during our time of bereavement.

## Message of Thanks

We, the bereaved family and relatives of the late

## PEDRO C. SAZON

*who passed away on June 6, 2002*

wish to express our sincere thanks, profound gratitude and appreciation to all who offered Masses and prayers, gave donations, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil and in any way helped and shared our grief in our time of bereavement.

## Message of Thanks

We, the Family of the late

## ANTONIO SANTOS PADILLA JR.

who joined our Creator on June 7, 2002

together with our relatives, sincerely express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all of you who, in one way or another, condoled with us, offered prayers, expressed kind words of sympathy, and provided assistance during our hour of bereavement.

The kindness you've shown us has greatly lightened the grief we felt. May God continue to shower on you His blessings.

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*The warmth of your touch may become cold*
*But the memory of your constant love and guidance will never leave us.*

## CENON C. OZAETA

*Died on June 21, 2002 at the age of 44.*

His loving wife **Maluu**; and children **Kathleen**, **Renz & Gelo**; mother **Inay Epay**; brothers **Icoy**, **Rene & Ismael** and their respective families, and parents-in-law **Celing & Vioiy Reyes**, will forever remember his goodness and simplicity.

His mortal remains lie in state at the family residence at Miracle Heights, Lipa City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 25, 2002, at the Eternal Memorial Gardens, Bugtong, Lipa City, after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City.

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**CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN**

★ GATES/GRILLS ★
UNIQUE / SPECIAL DESIGN
Call 643-8927 • 0917-3312287

Leaking roof/wall basement rustprf/paint 645-5399

**ENGINEERS**

P4T Land Survey - 7571028
P5T Hse/Bldg Plan-7282605

**MASSAGE**

**'02 Hot Stuff**
Tel. No. 3233269

24Hr MASSEUR 4588558

-5527957-
MEN OF THE YEAR

ADAM-X (M) 8325228

AKHIN THAI MASSAGE#0917 4116004 Mia#8347357, Cebu

BOYWATCH 8890170

COMPANY B 8443896

Glen 9264664-09198457226

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8511883 ; 0916-4404374

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MASSAGE 4727243 JOHN

SCIENTIFIC SHIATSU M/F 0916-5412843/2862142 RENE

UNWIND 752-0437

**REFLEXOLOGY**

Edward 7289285 09183257044

Edgar 09204076717 7503640 HHS

**FEELS GOOD**
REFLEX CNTR 4127758/4134027

H-H-MS MALE 7314016

MALE SPA 552 BANAUE 7411426

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

Ryan 0919-6658730/8445117

Scorpion Massg 4372542

Wizard Massage 4213197

**TUTORIAL LESSONS**

Chinese Tutoring Valle Verde T#631-6691 / 631-9198

• LIGHT-5268216 OR 70 •

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Corporate Uniforms**
Good quality at affordable prices Call Ruby or Shiela 9264070/72 or 9241402

Guides M/F • 0917-8912920

### HOUSEHOLD

**FLOOR SANDING**

JL Flr Sand-serv 4102824

**HOUSEHOLD JOBS**

IDEAL MAIDS PROVL 732-6750

Best Maids 4111593/7111602

Direct Maid Yaya Cook 7570579

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### HOUSEHOLD

**HOUSEHOLD JOBS**

Direct-Maid-Yaya-Cook 4229362

Good Maid Yaya Cook 7572089

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy 7570579

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy 4214652

Good-Maid-Yaya-Cook 4214652

Good-Maid-Yaya-Cook 8708384

Good-Maid-Yaya-Driver 7570579

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

Isang Tawag Meron Agad! Maid Yaya Boy Driver PT Nurses Midwives Regent Tel. 7328405 / 4107388 / 7429329

MAIDS 9124701•9124706

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND **MAIDS** Call:Joy•8712372•8722792

**Prov'l Trusted Maids Yaya**
CALL: 873-7055 • 873-7057

ANGEL'S HANDS MAIDS W/NBI&BI 863-4270

RELIABLE HONEST MAIDS W/ NBI 4213253

RELIABLE MAIDS 4216053

RELIABLE MAIDS 8330946/47

Trusted Guarantee Maids & honest w/NBI&BI 8227269•7769512

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS W/NBI & BI 421-3828

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400Lipat 6817623/6817136

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313975

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

**LBahay7433225**
Lipat Bahay Manila 2 Any Pt. of Luzon 801-1578/805-4913

**LIPAT BAHAY**
w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

LIPAT-BAHAY •7767680•

### MISCELLANEOUS

Face Printing - Gretch 09176927487 / 4138445

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

**MAKATI**

**Mkti Ave. G/F, 4/F nr**
Kalayaan otc T-9251467

**MANILA**

★Taft Ave 1030m² w/ Bldg P58M Decena w/WH 300m² P4.6M Plenty 7319493 Mary★

**Legaspi T300 Roxas Blvd**
FF 20/F otc T-9251467

**RIGHTS FOR SALE**
Ideal for Sari' Store along Vito Cruz St.
T#400-0751

**PARANAQUE**

FOURTH ESTATE Subd. Sucat, Paranaque 1000m² at P4,500/m² neg.
CALL 844-1086 to 88 loc. 12
Look for Milo Tianzon

**PASIG**

418sqm 2Sty Apt. frnt College, Chrch 6414589, 09175372340

643837 sqm Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414589, 09175372340

**OTHER AREAS**

★Karuhatan 684m² Res'l w/ WHS P4.5M 7319493 Mary★

★SUBIC 52[illegible]300m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-[illegible]

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

## VERY PRIME PROPERTIES
### AT BARGAIN PRICES

**ROXAS BOULEVARD** - BAYVIEW TOWER 1 GRD. FLOOR COMMERCIAL AREA 340 SQ.M. - P38,000 PER SQ.M.

**WACK-WACK ROYAL MANSION** - 17TH FLR RESIDENTIAL CONDO 76.69 SQ.M. FURNISHED WITH PARKING - P5.5M

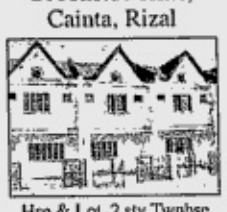
**BAGUIO CITY** - RAW LANDS
MARCOS HIGHWAY 81,656 SQ.M. - P250 PER SQ.M.
NAGUILIAN ROAD 19,315 SQ.M. - P300 PER SQ.M.

**CABANATUAN** - RAW LAND WITH SUBDIVISION APPROVAL FOR HOUSING 71,175 SQ.M. - P220 PER SQ.M.

**BULACAN**
10 HAS. FARM PROPERTY - P50 PER SQ.M. 50KMS FR. QUEZON CITY
2.6 HAS. INDUSTRIAL - P300 PER SQ.M. 65KMS FR. QUEZON CITY
500 TO 1,000 SQ.M. COMMERCIAL LOTS ALONG MCARTHUR HIGHWAY - P4,000 PER SQ.M. 45KMS FR. QUEZON CITY

For inquiries, please call: LEXBER Realty Mgt. & Mktg.
☎ 3719702 to 04, 4108367 to 69, 4106688
3742584, 3723206, 3719706

**Birmingham PLACE**
Brookside Hills, Cainta, Rizal



Hse & Lot, 2 sty Twnhse 2BR, 2TB with carport

**HOMES**
M.L. Quezon Ext. Antipolo City
Two-storey Town house

**METROPOLIS VILLAGE**
Pasig, Ortigas
2 BR - 2T&B
2 storey Town house

**BIRMINGHAM SUNRISE**
**SAN MATEO, RIZAL**
50m² up nr Quezon City
2BR, 1T&B with carport
**PANORAMA HILLS**
Nr SSS, Antipolo
Overlooking M. Manila
Only 20% DP Bal. 5 yrs.

HOMEOWNERS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
297-1046/697-5973
655-0134/941-0701

**PROPERTIES 4 SALE**
Antipolo along Sumulong Hiway - 3484 sqm, 5225 sqm
Sariaya, Quezon - 23, 157sqm
Bulacan - 40,000 sqm
Nueva Ecija - 40,000 sqm
House & Lot White Plains
Call Tel. 8244317 Susan

**VARIOUS AREAS**

Do Intelligent Search
www.investph.com
Or ask Leo 727-3159

### HOUSE & LOT

**ALABANG**

Owner Built Hse Ayala Alabang 3BR 3½TB Separate Guest House w/ 2BR 2TB, Waterfall, Pool, Lush Grd's 4Car Garage Call Vivien 5600728 09202726811

**LAS PINAS**

B1 L8 PELAYO VILLAGE 216 SQM 3BR 2TB T8740832

HL Sale/Rent Pilar Vill.LP 7764676

**MAKATI**

Magallanes 5br 38M 9122304

ZOBEL ROXAS MKT
BNewfurnished1sty/3BR/3TB/grge P3M up 8903461 loc 34

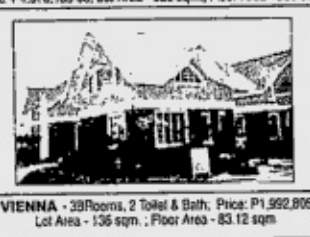
**MANILA**

2Sty 3BR Call Luming 531-8151/Mila 564-7685

**4BR 4TB GARAGE STA.ANA, MLA. 4.5M NEG.**
•CALL 563-7624 •

**Lakeshore Homes**
Brgy Tunasan, Buendia St., Muntinlupa City (via South Super Highway exit to Susana Heights)
Tels: BETH 817-6522 • 815-2975 • 894-0001 (weekdays office hours)
CORA- 560-0502 (weekend/office hours). Email: prov@mindgate.net.ph

CUSTOM MADE HOUSE - 4 Bedrooms, 2 Kitchens, 4 Car Garage; Price: P4,970,165.00, Lot Area - 328 sqm.; Floor Area - 220 sqm.



VIENNA - 3BRooms, 2 Toilet & Bath; Price: P1,992,805 Lot Area - 136 sqm. ; Floor Area - 83.12 sqm

### HOUSE & LOT

**QUEZON CITY**

**AYALA ALABANG**
213 MALVAR ST.
LA680sqm + 300sqm easement, NEW, FA500sqm., 4BR, 5TB, maid, dryer room, 8 cars, big garden, pool, waterfall, jacuzzi, all imported (Europe), exclusive standard, all aircon. P35M (neg). Charlie or Pearl 842-7165 or 62. (0917) 532-6904. charliqm@mydestiny.net
BROKERS WELCOME

**MARIKINA**

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

★Provident H&L 571m² 2sty w/ WH P5M Vacnt Lot 860m² P8th/m² 7319493 Mary★

**NEAR ATENEO UP**
2STY 5BR ANN • 929-4145

Rush! Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-2429078

**PARANAQUE**

•BF BN34FREIXAS 2STY 8239352

BLS Bung LA300m² 3BR/ Fmly.Rm 2TB M&DRM Grden 2CG w/Tel H20 8239255

H/L 105m² P1M up 8239255

Remanville LA-240m² FA-315m² 2Sty 4BR 4TB 2Glcny MR 2CG w/ Tel H20 FF or Semi-FF 8239255

UPS4 LA330m² FA450m² 2Sty 5BR 5TB w/Rooftk w/SP, MR w/Basement 8239255

**PASIG**

Greenwoods Pasig 204-LA 245-FA 5BR 5TB SPool 2Grg 716-8347 • 0919-3302563

★ NoDownPayment ★
Mercedes Village P22,540/m Duplx - Bungalow 2BR 1T&B Call 643-8927 • 0917-3312287

LA 230 3BR 2TB MAID / TB Nr SHAW BLVD CALL 634-1212

**RENT OR SALE**
#5 Phoenix Subd Nick 671-7062

Valle Verde 14M • 658-2410

Walking distance Sta. Lucia P1.5M 20%DP 09194053902

**QUEZON CITY**

300m² QC Stuna H&L 532-3936

### HOUSE & LOT

**PROVINCIAL**

Provincial Highway, Sta. Cruz, Zambales near sea. Lot 1,569m² house 396m² extra strong construction 6BR each with complete furniture and bathroom • all marble floors • 2 patios in pebbles • all furnitures included never used • marble dining table 1mx2m, U.S. washing machine • outside covered Japanese garden with waterfalls to winding stream • P8M CARMEN 047-831-8886

**QUEZON CITY**

**Californian Inspired!**
Kamias New 6BR/4TB 2CG #75 K-9 St 4.8M neg 3725865

RUSH SALE Timog w/House LA493m² @ P10M T-9282497

T. SORA 2.8M neg 3BR2TB 233m² T-9251496

Tandang Sora near SM LA-152 / FA-100 / 3BR/2TB 2CG/WTank RUSH SALE 2.5M (Neg) 8941118 Zeny

T.Sora 1Ride to UP P2.2M 3BR2TB LA100 FA50 9310585

**RIZAL**

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA108 3br2tb 09178174547

MONTALBAN 360T 6495616

ROBINSON HOMES ANTIPOLO la80 fa65 3br2tb 6309007

VVerde Cainta 200m² RUSH 1.8m 845-0736 0917-2459025

**SAN JUAN**

★ Greenhills West ★
Fronting Xavier High School 2Sty Concrete House 6Br/7TB w/Maids Rm, Driver's Rm 9CG w/ Good Business • 722-1832

**OTHER AREAS**

Baguio 5br 1.2M 09174865467

Brent/II P7.5M new 658-2418

Imus Thse 650k 09174865467

Rush!CanyonWoods Binga P6.5M Call 0918-6052638

SALE/RENT SantaRosa Vil Laguna front TechnoPark 3storeys 236sqm lot 141sqm 0917-8101030/3728496

TREELANE -IMUS 2 STY : 3BR, 2T&B T# (046)434-0997

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### LOT

**RIZAL**

**CUYAMBAY, TANAY, RIZAL**
12.2 hectares, fenced, CLEAN TITLE. On the corner of the Marikina/ Infanta H-way and Brgy. Road going to Cuyambay proper. P170/sq.m. Call Beth 8176522/ 8152975; text only (0917)5272491.

**LAS PINAS**

240SQM 6T/SQM 8015747

**MAKATI**

Zapote nr J.P.Rizal 246m² P28T 5646593 5633742 09178473744

**MANILA**

500 OR 1,189SQM ADRIATICO ST., NR COR NAKPIL MALATE MLA. SUSAN 2414194 LOC 1 OFF HR

★T. Mapua 95m² nr Dngpin P9.5M ★ F. Huertas 640m²★ Plenty 7319493 Mary ★

San Marcelino 150 Sqm with Improvement 25T/Sqm 8958580 / 09175248907

**MANDALUYONG**

335m² P12M 5780283

4974m² Samat Mand 535-2289

**MARIKINA**

Parang LaColina 237.5m² P4500/m² (Neg) 941-7706

**PARANAQUE**

9113m² @ P20T/m²; 2000m² @ P25T/m² Km 18 East Serv. Rd SSH T837-0701 Hermie

Vacant Lot 120m² up 8239255

**QUEZON CITY**

Comm'l Lot 2,000 to 4,000m² Theresa 634-3668 635-0875

GrnMeadows 25T/m² 658-2410

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots New Phase 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(in 2 months)
Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest
HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB
150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @ P6M P13M 2 yrs - 10 yrs
Term w/ Complete Facilities
9319117 ★ 9319160 T.Banez

★SMH Retiro 57m² P10M Tabayok/Ubay 756m² P22T/m² Plenty 7319493 Mary★

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS CHOICE LOTS with VIEW 929-1832 • 426-5650

Vista Real Classica O.C. 300sqm Call 929-7580

**RIZAL**

Birmingham Place Cainta 120m² P4T/m² • 658-2410

San Mateo Bankers Vill. 240m² P3000 / m² 941-7706

**SAN JUAN**

★P.Guevarra/Ortega/Wilson Plenty 7319493 Mary★

San Pablo S.J. 240m² 921-7458

SJuan 223m²-500m² 7272373

**PROVINCIAL**

1-3 HEC AGUINALDO H-WAY ANABU II BET MAKRO & ORCHARD IMUS CAVITE SUSAN 2414194 LOC 1 OFF HR

2CR LOTS 444sqm 5.5per sq. •805-5921 - 857-4931•

BAGUIO CRYSTAL CAVE Lot 1000sqm Emma 8269423

Laguna Southpt 480m² 9122304

LIPA CITY 7has@P100 /m² w/coco trees 801-6251

LOT FOR SALE Direct Buyer Only 4979sqm San Jose Batangas along Hiway Contact Marilou Soliano 0917-2411364 • 028319562

### LOT

**PROVINCIAL**

**LOT USE FOR ANY PURPOSE**
30,768 sqm Capas, Tarlac
50m away fr McH-way
Tel: 0916-4139874

**RIDGEMONT VILL. 35 min**
From Ortigas 150 to 800m² over looking Ortigas 7183109 (0916)3752394 Jun

RUSH: TAGAYTAY LOT 2510sqm Price: P5000/m² Overlooking along Natl. Rd. beside Splendido Yolly Cupal C#0916-5539078 or 09187053777 or Tel#9515359 or 046-4133505 email: REINER@GUOMAI.SH.CN

SAN PABLO 2054 sqm hgwy near Meralco 8522262

Tagaytay Lots 240-500 m² Along Hway 7183109 (0916)63752394 Jun Cubio

TAGAYTAY PROP. FOR SALE P2,500.00/sq.m.-221sq.m. DIRECT BUYERS ONLY • CONTACT 806-1854 •

**OTHER AREAS**

1,000m² Valenzuela 5,5m² 0918-3359001 • 0918-3359007

BAGUIO 10has@250/m², P2,000/m² 09174865467

**•RUSH SALE•**
LA RESIDENCIA DE STA ROSA, beautiful corner lot 270sqm Main Club St owner selling at very affordable price of P2.5M only.
Interested parties kindly Call 813-0048

### CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

**MAKATI**

**C5 Nr The Fort 988T**
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
Ven • 0917-8169849

CONDO Central Park Makati 21sqm Furnish P850T Neg. RUSH T-783-2900

**Only P9,000++/mo.**
Own 2BR condo nr. Mkti Megamall READY 4 OCCUPANCY! Inquire now at 641-1782 for more info

**MANILA**

3BR2TB Lamayan St., Sta. Ana Tel#562-6623

Newly Renovated 167sqm CONDO Unit 4br 4tb 2Kitchen Call 0917-8972187

NR LA SALLE TAFT Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge P3M up 8903461 loc 34

RUSH SALE 7722 Sqm. 5/F Midland Plaza Ermita Newly Renov P2.3(M) Neg 0917-4879655 Bohol (038) 5001014

**MANDALUYONG**

2Flr / 2BR Condo 57.5sqm 500T Assume Bal. 535-7567

CITYLAND MANDALUYONG UNIT 207 48SQM 5335593

**PARANAQUE**

WESTMONT CONDO SUCAT 2BDRM 0917-9914974

**PASIG**

1.4M 2b 2l 1cg or malls 9164085 24hr MWSS tel CATV nice quiet

CRISANTA TOWER NR ULTRA 2BR 2TB 1PRKNG 634-1212

LA 68 FA 280 3BR 4TB 2 CAR KAPITOLYO CALL 634-1212

MEGA PLAZA 1BR w/views 20thFlr Ortigas behind Robinsons Galleria 2.8M Neg Call Cielo 911-8752

**Only 13,000++/mo.**
Own a condo unit Along Ortigas Ave inside 5&R comm'l complex With-end amenities BIG DISCOUNTS OFRDI 656-1554/1662

**QUEZON CITY**

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

★Nr Ateneo 3.5M 6819868

### CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

**QUEZON CITY**

FOR SALE — FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED

**ONE BEATRIZ TOWER**
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
COMPARE & CONSIDER:
1. 1st CLASS AMENITIES
NAME IT... WE HAVE IT!!!
2. ACCESSIBILITY - SCHOOLS (Ateneo U.P. Miriam, Kolehs, PSBA, NCBA), BANKS, Other Bus. Establishments & TRANSPO to any part of M. Mla.
3. X'lent VIEW (360°) of the Metropolis w/ roof - top S. POOL & Garden
4. WHY BUY IF NOT FINISHED BUY & TRANSFER NOW!!
SEE... IS TO BELIEVE!!!
FOR BUSY INVESTORS/BUSINESS MEN WE ARE OPEN UNTIL 9:00 p.m.
*FEW UNITS LEFT*
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL#: 922-4469/921-4883 433-7668/433-8842

**RUSH SALE**
**VILLA MARIE**
Executive Townhouse
LA 99.88 sq.m. FA-158 sqm.
Ground Floor: Office/Foyer space/2 car garage/2BR/Maid room
2nd Floor: Living/Dining/Kitchen/Dirty Kitchen
3rd Floor: 3BR/2TB
Call THE PROPERTY FORUM 6111455-56 (0917) 8971240

**QUEZON CITY**

**1.8M Nr ABS-CBN**
10% D.P. payable in 6 mos Balance 10 or 15 years to pay
Call 926-4070 ; 924-1402

★Tolentino St nr Roosevelt B /new 3BR1Cg P3.3M ★Q. Ave 115m² 3BR P4.5M ★Gen Lim Hereoshill 80m² 4BRP4.5M ★Cordillera 126m² P6.5m²★ Plenty 7319493 Mary★

Lee Gardens No Downpayment @ P12000/Mo. Call 718-3109; 0916-3752394 Jun

Nr Ateneo UP P5.2M Terms
Condo P2.9M
09194053902

Proj.4 P3.1M FA125.55m² 2BR 2TB 1Maids Rm Near Hi-Way • Myrtle 292-6001

QC Thse 2M nr UP 9122304

Rush Landsdale 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

T/Hse Nr. Ateneo 426-0189

TSORA Dna Faustina Subd. Bnew thses w/attic garden 935-6080 / 0917-4618225

### MEMORIAL LOT

HERITAGE 7120038/0270/0229

### AGRICULTURAL LANDS

TAGAYTAY Farm Lot Titled 1HA 400/sqm 0917-8146234

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### RESORT

**BEACH LOT FOR SALE**
1,260m² white beach lot located at Bo. Bantigue, Pagbilao, Quezon. 2-3 hrs. drive fr. Manila, back, concreted road, nat'l. hi-way, with Meralco & H20 (Lupata)
Contact EVELYN at 658-8561 to 63 Monday to Friday for details

**ZAMBALES AREAS**
Call 0919-3279260

### CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Buying/Selling GOLFSHARES 753-1843to45;840-0324/0358

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

**LAS PINAS**

2BDR/2STRY 8500 8015747

2BR/U-D w/Grge 8652034/8437609

**MAKATI**

2 DOORS 844-8207

3BR w/grge P10 T8314191

3BR W/TEL PARKING 8446392

P7T 2BR nr JP Rizal 8957003

**MANILA**

1BR NR P.GIL 5634007•5642878

Apt 7841746/6682108

**MANDALUYONG**

**845 Samat St.,**
Mand. City • 533-7709 to 12.

**QUEZON CITY**

70 Mapang-akit St. 254-3576

91-8th Ave., Cubao no kids good for 2 studio type P6T

SFDM 1&2br 10Tmo 3725866

Studio or 2Bedrms Clean #17 Road 14 Project 8 QuezonCity

### HOUSE

**ALABANG**

AYALABANG 66T incl VAT 720LOT 450FLOOR 4BDRMS 5BTH DENXALA DNING LNAI 894-2684 FEPOT OFF HRS.

**PASIG**

**#17 San Agustin,**
Capitol 8, Pasig City, ofc hrs 8152398 • 8183108 after ofc 6712114

House 70sqm P4T 7284275

New Manila 5BR 3Cargrge Beautiful Hse Call 7001111

Invite 2.8 million people to come inside your house

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### HOUSE

RIZAL

2 STRY HSE 3 BR 2 TB FF MORONG RIZAL CALL:FLO 656-0815

SAN JUAN

GHILLS 2BR 2TB NR. XAVIER / ICA 15,500 953-0043

Greenhills 7265340/7244529 Sundays 09178165103

PROVINCIAL

Baguio FF bes PMA 9122304

### CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR Furn South Str Plz 844-7524

1BR M.Tuscany Fully Furn New Renov.Elegant Int. Call Lulu 887-7595 Off (0917)8115391

39.61sqm Unit 4H 93 Gil Puyat Mkt P11000/mo Negotiable CTC Marissa 0917-3658883

C 2 Blleve Le Met FF 3BR or Call 09189277787

Millenium Condo FF 1BR w/ tel 18K; Primetown Studio FF 10K; Ponte Salcedo 2BR FF 40K w/tel • Call 724-38-94

new studio/2BR/clinic/com'l P9T up • no association dues 1672 Dian St., Mkti. nr Buendia. Korean nationality is welcome!!! LOOKING 4 KOREAN BROKER Call Rese 843-9418 or 536-9509

Studio P7T/mo Buendia BelAir •805-5921 867-4931•

### MANILA

2BR2TB mdsrm T9 furn T8342927 Antel Seaview Roxas Blvd.

MANDALUYONG

Ofis 32m² ShawTower 8127760

Cityland WackWack Mand. 1BR FF w/Tel 12T/month 0919-4372361 or 534-7953

Paragon Plaza FF 9122304

PARANAQUE

2BR2TB w/Tel BF Pque nr Aylabang H20 ck nice T#2580131

4br 3tb Bment 2Car garage trineville Leddy 928-5447 or 0917-8171173

PASIG

BrentVII P7.5M new 658-2410

Emerald Condo Ortigas . 2BR Furnished • 633-0164

HORIZON CONDO ORTIGAS 2BR/BATH FULLY FURNISH 8429278 MRS. GASTON

SAN JUAN

Grnhills STD F P12T 929-9835

### OTHER AREAS

WRIGHT PARK BAGUIO 6425663

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

**CB RICHARD ELLIS**

Brand New Res. Units for Lease

**Essensa-Luxury 3BR**
Fort Bonifacio, 290 sqm.

**Classica Tower-123BR**
Salcedo Village, Makati
43-157 sqm., 18-85K UF/FF

More properties available:
752-2580, 759-4091
848-7388, 750-0127
759-2335, 0917-8381928
manila@cbrichardellis.com

### FOR LEASE

124 sqm 2F DAO I BLDG 189 SALCEDO ST, LEGASPI VILL, MKTI. TEL 8928970

2-Units 830m²@Muralla Ind. Park-nr Meycauayan Exit-fronting Coca-Cola Bottling Plant-Brokers Welcome 7270905 7271295

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

CAMP JOHN HAY Country Homes Emma 8269423

Comt 2sty bldg G/F 444m² 2/F 499m² cor. busy street nr QC Hall 09196653869

LAGUNA WHSE 4 RENT PEZA ZONE 1000+ & 2000+m² w/Ofc Call May 6710815/5071

LIBIS WHSE 4 RENT 1200 & 800+m² w/ofc. Tel. Call May 671-0815/671-5071

### ROOM & BOARD

1 BIG ROOM 743-48-58 NEAR UST SAMPALOC MANILA

★P950 / HD Bnew Ladies Dorm J. Luna / TDO 4122624★

Ladies nr UP Diliman Call 9249559 / 09164369057 TRI

Ldys Mkt 8950134/8907135

Malate Male 2.5T 536-6264

New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" Tel.6451185/6810992

Rm w/meal fullyfurn 9257857 Bedspace w/meal furn

### BEDSPACE

BEDSPACE LADIES / MEN NR. LA SALLE AC RMS 9530043

•LADIES SHARE CONDO• BURGUNDY WESTBAY TWR V. Cruz Taft nr LaSalle 6K Up Also 4 rent:123BR/coml units 752-2580 848-7388 759-4091 759-2335 0917-8370184

### WANTED TO BUY

ATTN: PROPERTY OWNERS •For IMMEDIATE Occupancy• EXPATS looking for hses. in Forbes, Dasma, Urdaneta/ units in Rockwell, Essensa, Pacific Plaza Tower, 1 Roxas, etc. 7594091 * 7500127 * 7592335

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K OXFORD SUITES, FF ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW NR BUENDIA & MKTI AVE. 7594091*7522569*0917-8381928

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### BUSINESS RENTAL

**FOR RENT**
**JUPITER PLACE**
COMMERCIAL SPACE
*PLS. INQUIRE FOR YOUR AREA REQUIREMENTS*
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723-5808/8961414
LOOK FOR MS. JANET

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★ Bank Employees
★ Employees of top corporations
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- P15,000 to P1,000,000
- Payable in 12 to 36 easy installments
- No collateral
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*Requirements:*
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Interested parties, pls. contact
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Riza - 231-5443
Myrna - 253-4139

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

Car Sangla While-U-Wait 30 Mins. Cash / No Gimmick! 9241254 • 9264160 • 9259121

### BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

GUD BUS / OFFICE KAPITOLYO FA 125 SQM CALL 634-1212

MKTI ofc/clinic 8439418 Rose

P.Tamo Grd. 340m² 921-7468

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

HONDA

CIVIC ESI '93 T9975372

HYUNDAI

94Grace 140T, 97 H100 230T 2001 Starex 690T, all power A1 Cond, financing ok! 731-7984 / 731-6550

Starex '01 P680Th (neg) A1 con 09175325635

KIA

97Besta 160T,98Pregio 300T, 96Asia Topic 245T, all power A1 Cond, financing ok! 731-7984 / 731-6550

MITSUBISHI

FOR SALE:Mitsubishi L300 Exceed Van 1997 Model Contact Tel. No. 806-1854

NISSAN

99 Nissan Sentra Super Saloon Exalta Red Loaded 26000Km P375T Neg. Benjie 0917-5346684

TOYOTA

Crla 91 GL A1 P175T 9119127

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Prado Trooper Pajero Mu Safari Terrano Surf Hi-Town Ace Delica Suzuki A1 tx pd 09178342020/09178144526

### SPECIAL CARS

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## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o taking car 7262760

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### FURNITURE

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New Models 7213124

### HOME APPLIANCE

3-Ton Aircon For Sale Office 8925997 9AM-6PM

### PETS

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

G.RET PUPS 09185221929

Longhaired Guinea Pigs 5277616

PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER TRAINS DOGS w/COMPETENCE BOARDING/HOME SERVICE PUPPYCARE T 0919-7414590

ROTT 10T wVACppr 4399691

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others. High Price CASH
09178142309/7269697/4123543

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FURNITURE/Used Clothing P.Books/ Mags/Shoes/Bags Utensils/Sewing Mach T.V. REF;Stereo; Spkr; Piano; etc. Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

TV/COMPO 7325865

### MISCELLANEOUS

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FABRIC SOFTENER P55/Lit A1 Quality •(0917)8146234•

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Winkelman Upright Piano P40T Call Vivien 5600728 09202726811

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE

WANTED: MALE MECHANICAL or INDUSTRIAL w/Computer knowledge Call 899/522 • 899/578

The Asian Institute for Liturgy & Music (AILM) Is now accepting applicants for the

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- Four modules available
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Or visit AILM at the Cathedral Heights, 275 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd. Quezon City (inside Trinity College Campus).

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
MACABEBE, PAMPANGA

AUGUSTO O. JAYME,
Mortgagee.
-versus-
ANTONIO DE MESA for himself and as atty.-in-fact of REBECCA S. CRUZ, ALICIA S. CRUZ and LILIA S. CRUZ DE MESA,
Mortgagors.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
CASE NO. 02-0225-(M)

- NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE -

Upon petition of extra-judicial foreclosure of real estate mortgaged under Act 3135, as amended, filed by AUGUSTO O. JAYME, with postal address at No. 66 Gen. Luna St., Hermosa Hts., Quezon City, against ANTONIO DE MESA for himself and as attorney-in-fact of Rebecca S. Cruz, Alicia S. Cruz and Lilia S. Cruz-de Mesa of No. 39 Twin Hills, New Manila, Quezon City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of May 15, 2002 amounted to ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN (P1,431,347.00) PESOS exclusive of interest and penalty, attorney's fees and incidental expenses of the foreclosure all secured by the said mortgage and the undersigned as her duly authorized deputy sheriff will sell at public auction on July 5, 2002 at 10 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Macabebe, Pampanga to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine Currency the following property lies and all its improvements to wit:

- TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 429989-R -

1. A parcel of land (Lot No. 2708 of the cad. survey of Apalit, with the improvement thereon, situated in the Mun. of Apalit, Bounded on the E. by Rd. on the S. by Lot Nos. 2709 and 2785, Beg. at a pt. marked "1" on plan, x x x containing an area of ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY SQUARE METERS (1 420) more or less. x x x

2. (Lot No. 2709) Beg. at a pt. marked "1" on plan, being N. 59 deg. 07'W., 604.50 m. from BLLM No. 7, thence S. 74 deg. 53'W., 6.94 m. to pt. 2, thence N. 53 deg. 28'W., 14.27 m. to pt. 3, thence N. 15 deg. 23'W., 18.93 m. to pt. 4, thence N. 78 deg. 28'E., 8.73 m. to pt. 5, thence S. 28 deg. 45'E., 30.44 m. to pt. of beg. containing an area of THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN SQ. METERS (315) more or less. x x x

Prospective buyers and bidders may investigate for themselves the above-described properties. Transfer Certificate of Title No. 429989-R are on file in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Macabebe, Pampanga.

Issued this June 7, 2002.

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEILA MAE H. MACAPINLAC
OIC - Clerk of Court

(Sgd.) PABLITO C. CLEMENTE, JR.
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:
Atty. Francisco A. Cayandang Jr.
653 M. dela Fuente St., Sampaloc, Manila

Antonio de Mesa
39 Twin Hills New Manila, Quezon City

(PDI—June 9, 16 & 23, 2002)

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8380946 8390060

### MISCELLANEOUS

**GARAGE SALE FURNITURE/ APPLIANCES**
No. 15 Polaris St., Bel Air Village, Makati, Tel. No. 897-22-03
June 22-23, 2002 at 10:00am-4:00pm (Sat/Sun)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### FEMALE

BEAUTICIAN •8432596•

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8958112

MED TECH
MEDIC WORLD 632-9323 to 24

PHARMACIST, SOCIAL WORKER, LAB AIDE 6454198

Wnted LAVANDERA 9266372

### MALE/FEMALE

*Ofc Staff 18-45y/o w/w/oexp Start asap 9134470 Roma

BUILDING MANAGER*HIGHLY MOTIVATED*3YRS.EXP.MIN. SAN JUAN AREA 721-5546

CIVIL ENGR. FIELD / ESTIMATOR Send Resume 222 Vargal St., Pasay City or Call Tel. No. 889-2527

COMPUTER ARTIST Creative/hardworking Experience/Resume 405 UN Ave Roxas Blvd

DINNING/PRODUCTION SUPV w/experience; coll. grad. Laguna based Call/Text 09202300082/049-5410897

Exec. Secretary •8151601•

FREE CARE GIVER SEMINAR 561-49-90 5638009

HAIRDRESSER MANICURIST RECEPTIONIST (Physical Therapist) CALL 895-6031 Loc 2011

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### FEMALE

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**ACCOUNTING CLERKS**

Female, BS Accountancy graduates, preferably with 1-2 years experience. New graduates also welcome to fill other positions. Please call 807-1169 or come with resume/TR to CPII Compound, Km 21 West Service Road South Superhighway, Cupang Muntinlupa City

### MALE/FEMALE

HRD Staff 09197572274 Mike

• INTERNATIONAL COOK • Exp Walter Hopia Maker Tel 872-2129/874-8609

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Ofc Staff 09163870072 Porsh

Ofc Staff 18-35y/o w/w/o exp 9121488 DAVE Urgent

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. Tan

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Researchers/Interviewers Mnl, Cebu, Davao. Email CV to eumax@digitalone.com

Urgent OFC STAFF 18-45yo w/w/o exp 0917-5033825 9134470 Ms POWERS/Ms Vi

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

**OFFICE STAFFS**
Trainer and Documentation Staffs
Female/ 21-25/ single/ Education/ Psychology/ Graduate/ Good in English/ with good computer knowledge
CALL 729 27 97, 729 28 02
Contact
MR. JONATHAN

**WANTED NURSES/ MIDWIVES**
(Preferably new graduate)
Tel. 8731119; 8735549
Call Head Nurse On Duty

### MALE/FEMALE

STAY-IN NURSE M/F, licensed w/exp. at least 110lbs. above. TRACTOR/TRAILER DRIVER 25-45 3yrs driving exp.In HGV HS Grad, Good moral character. Bring bio-data and apply in person at 26 Don Pepe St. corner Tirad Pass (3rd St. from Sto.Domingo Church)Q.C. 731-1033

Urgent OFC STAFF 20-40y.o. 427-5568/913-4470 JOYCE

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Reflexology Training Promo July 1-30 4/F COD Cubao QC Call 911-0201 ; 912-7004

### AUCTION SALE

Say Pawnshop, All Exp'd Items 6/26/02,#776-5140 Lanuza Sons

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN Clo 7137284 09177939632

CAP EDUC PLAN
Monet 2528373 • 09174037776

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

LINDBERG "BOY" V. NUNEZ whose picture herein appears is no longer connected with COVENCO, INC./YCP FOODS. Any transaction entered by him in behalf of the company shall not be honored.

(PDI – June 23, 2002)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Are you tired/pressured from your business??? If YES, Why don't you try US!!! We are giving 60% max. return per annum on your INVESTMENT! Secured w/a 14 yr. stable company covered w/ a Guarantee check & monthly interest income! For more Info.; Pls. Call for appointment: 631-6234 or 631-2692

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Bazaar/Mall/Exhibit Spaces 633-9662 / 636-9608

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Kidswear consign 3738821

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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4% A month Interest P10T Min. Investment 0919-2649173 0917-7319631 w/contract

Supervisors P/F Time 8376065

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• 0917-8371152 •

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is thus given that the estate of spouses FRANCISCO and ANA C. LIMPOCO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 88, Page No. 18, Book No. VIII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Z. Penaflorde Zuniga of Pasig City Philippines.
*(PDI-June 16, 23 & 30, 2002)*

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**SUPERB CUMMINS 1500KW GENERATOR**
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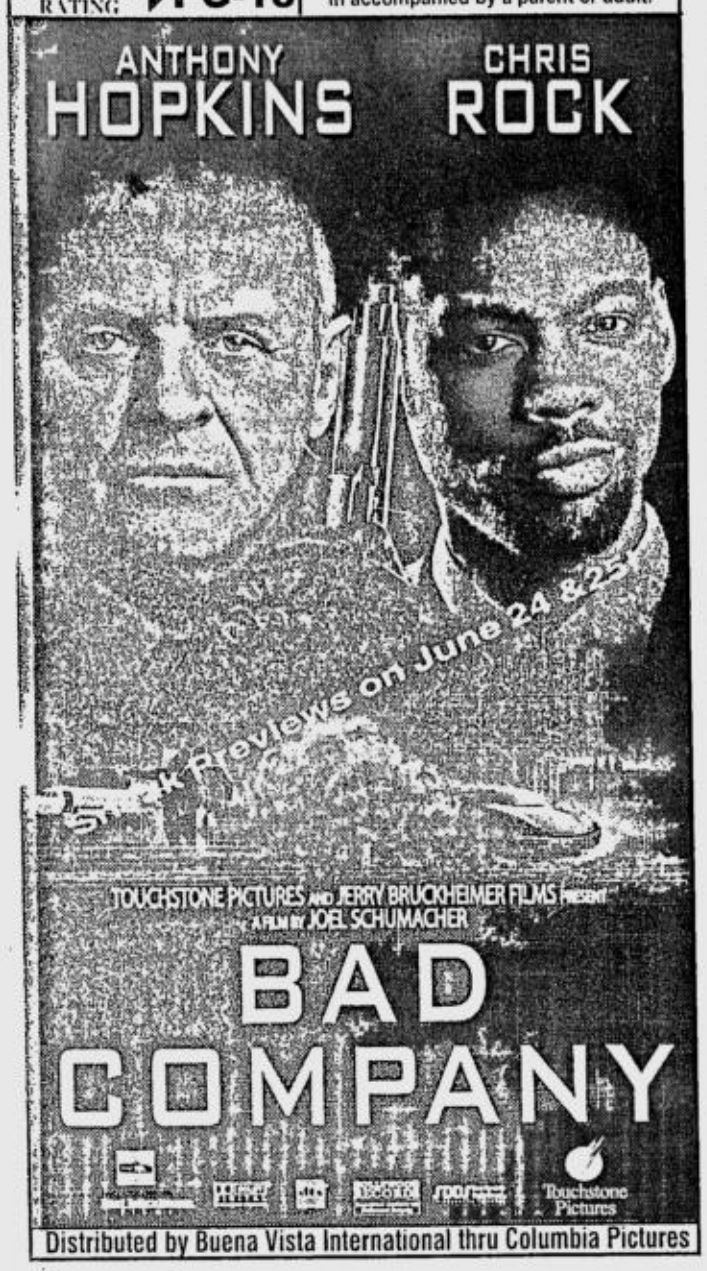


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MTRCB RATING GP GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

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NO.1

Pinupuri ng mga kritiko
Pinipilahan ng mga tao!

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SHOWING NA NATIONWIDE!


# THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

**ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101**

| | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | DISKARTE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | MAGKAPATID |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | SCOOBY-DOO |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | MONSTERS BALL |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | SCOOBY-DOO |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | DISKARTE |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |

**MANILA**

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX MEDUSA / HIYAS SA PARAISO |
| ODEON | SUM OF FEAR |
| ODEON-2 | MAMASAN |
| ROBEN | DISKARTE |
| TANDEM-1 | ITLOG |
| TANDEM-2 | IKA-7 GLORYA |
| TIMES | COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2 |

**QUEZON CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | MAMASAN |
| REMAR | DISKARTE |
| REMAR-2 | MAMASAN |

**NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| A | DISKARTE |
| B | MAGKAPATID |
| C | SUPER B |

**MANDALUYONG CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | SCOOBY-DOO |
| CINEMA-2 | FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL |

**CAINTA RIZAL**

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5481 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | SUPER B |
| CINEMA-2 | MAMASAN |
| CINEMA-3 | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| CINEMA-6 | MAGKAPATID |
| CINEMA-7 | RESIDENT EVIL |
| CINEMA-8 | STAR WARS |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-12 | MONSTER'S BALL |
| CINEMA-14 | DISKARTE |
| CINEMA-15 | MAGKAPATID |

**LORES**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |

**POWER PLANT CINEMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-1 | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| CINEMA-2 | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-3 | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| CINEMA-4 | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-5 | MONSTER'S BALL |
| CINEMA-6 | SUM OF ALL FEARS |

**UNIWIDE METROMALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PIÑAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |

**UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARAÑAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ALIPIN NG TUKSO |
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE


ANG KASAYSAYAN NG ISANG BABAENG NAWAWALA SA SARILI!

## ABS-CBN stars at SM malls

FANS of ABS-CBN's top-rating tele-series will be given a chance to see their favorite stars up close as the cast of the network's soap operas make a rare appearance in SM Malls at 4 p.m. today.

The once-in-a-lifetime event is part of ABS-CBN's launch of its newest tele-series, "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay," which will be topbilled by Lorna Tolentino, Ricky Davao, Edu Manzano, John Lloyd Cruz, Rica Peralejo, Bernard Palanca, and Bea Alonzo.

The cast will initially debut in a special celebration on "Asap" at noon and then extend the party at SM Mega Mall.


MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

Fun and fantasy for the whole family!

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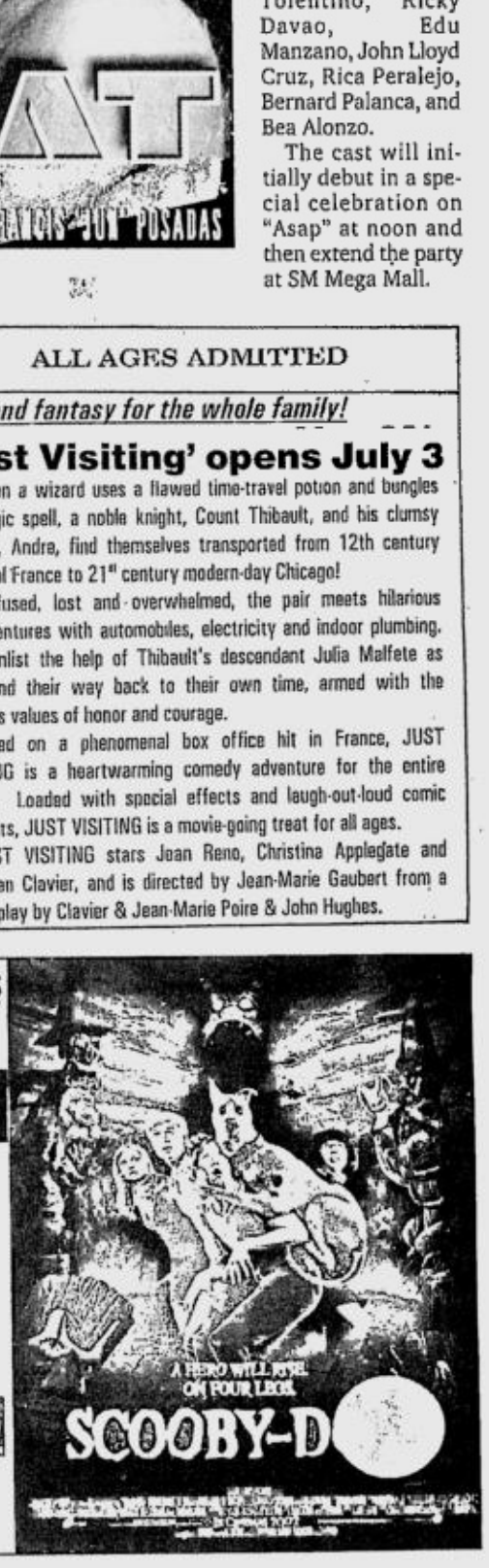




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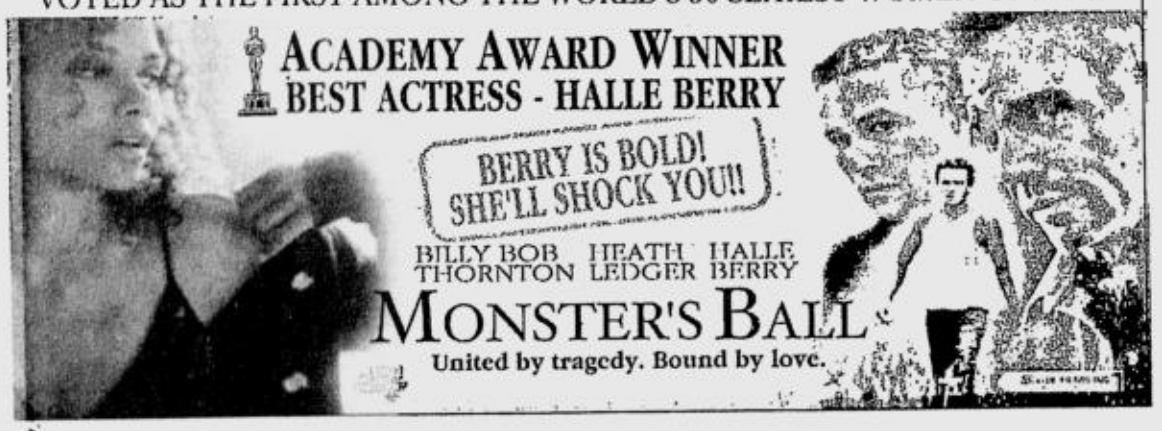

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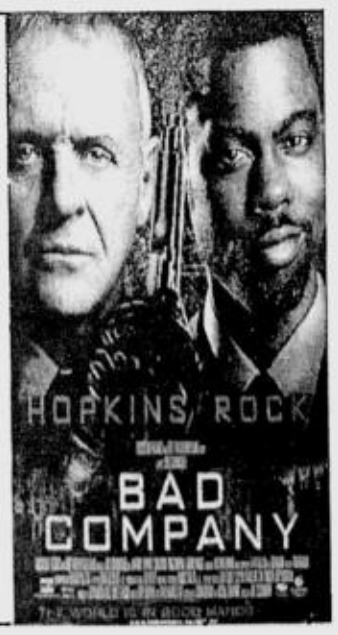

ENTRANCE to a chocolate lover's dreamland.

# Lady bakes in a castle that chocolate built

From page B16

succeed. Which begs the question, does she already consider herself a success? "No, not until we are able to completely pay off our loan" Lim states flatly, "but we're getting there."

From a husband-and-wife operation, Chocolate Lover now employs 20 regulars, with 10 or so contractuals joining them during the busy Yuletide season. CBCA meanwhile has four chefs, including Lim, who provide instruction.

Chocolate Lover will have a second store by August, this time near the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City. And plans are afoot for a third store, in Makati, by Christmas—always a good season for the Lims. "We're targeting these two stores this year, and maybe go into franchising after that," Lim reveals. She wants her store to be known as the one-stop, best-price source for confectionery supplies.

"Our mark-up is small, but we have a loyal following because we can match the prices of Quiapo or Divisoria suppliers. Our clients don't need to go to those places anymore."

### Work is play

More than the financial side, Lim stresses that the fulfillment comes from doing something she is passionate about. She admits that while she sees Chocolate Lover as "work," CBCA is "play" for her. This businesswoman found her love for baking early, tirelessly taking courses through her high school and college years. Though Lim finished Fine Arts and Advertising, she approaches baking like a chemist. She

ANNIE Lim, the force behind the Chocolate Lover.

experiments with recipes fearlessly, "like a mad scientist," she explains, laughing. Now that the business allows it, Lim takes courses abroad yearly to keep abreast of new techniques, which she quickly shares with her students at CBCA.

"This is like a gift to me," she says, motioning around her. "When my husband and I were newlyweds and renting my mother's apartment, I would ask myself, when would we ever be able to afford a house?"

Lim smiles at the memory. "Little did I know that God would give me much more. He would give me a castle."

Finally, Lim is queen of her castle, and of her own destiny.

# Ex-senator's staffer meets public's demand from the kitchen

From page B5

shelf life of a few months as long as it stays frozen.

"When made under strict quality control and properly packed, it can retain its original texture and taste and not spoil for months," she said, adding that it is a claim supported by most of her overseas customers.

Gonzales has always advised customers intending to bring *pinangat* on a long trip as *pasalubong* to freeze it and simply defrost it before serving.

"Experience has taught us that it should never be reheated in a microwave oven, steamed, or fried because its taste and texture would greatly differ," she cautioned.

Soon enough, even without the benefit of commercial advertisement, Gonzales' *pinangat* has become a regular fare in several upscale restaurants and hotels in the Bicol Region and indeed, in the whole archipelago.

From one part-time assistant helping her, she eventually hired 12 more full-time help and expanded her kitchen fourfold.

She said Dalisay Restaurant in Davao City and Rosini de las Palmas in General Santos City have been her regular customers in Mindanao.

In the Visayas, some food outlets in the SM and Gaisano mall chains serve *pinangat* as well as Bing-bing's Kitchenette in Legazpi Village, Makati, the Kamayan and Barrio Fiesta chain, Sulo Hotel and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Metro Manila.

Satisfied customers have also passed on the *pinangat* craze up north in Pampanga and Baguio City.

### Power dinner

Above all, Gonzales was proudest of her No. 1 customer in the Malacanang Palace, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

She said a presidential staff regularly orders the specialty for her bosses in special functions in the Palace for important personalities and sometimes as take-home *pasalubong*.

IVY Orvila, 16, mans the *pinangat* counter.

She said this might have been due to her established long-time connection with her former boss (Salonga) and the Liberal Party which, in various occasions, she had served formal dinners with the *pinangat*.

The Bicol Region has been one of the most visited areas by Ms Macapagal and in all of her presidential sorties in the area, her meals have always included the *pinangat*.

In her last visit in Naga City where she opened the Palarong Pambansa earlier this month, she was quoted by the media as having advised some of her Cabinet members and other guests during lunch to eat the Bicolano specialty.

Overseas Filipinos and foreign guests traveling to various international destinations have always been very helpful in that direction, according to Gonzales.

In fact, according to her, the OCWs in the strictly non-pork-eating Islamic countries have found a convenient way for their pork-laced favorite to pass customs inspection by grounding the *pinangat* and freezing it.

"In such condition, it passes for another food stuff which the Muslims have no idea whatsoever, but I advise them to stick to the fish variety to stay out of trouble with Muslim officials," she said.

"Wherever Filipinos go, so does the *pinangat*. It is served in restaurants in Hong Kong like the one owned by a Tess Alegria, and in many Filipino homes in Australia, Canada and the United States brought in as frozen *pasalubong*," she added.

### Green burger

The *pinangat* has always been almost solely associated with rice, fish and other traditional food but never with bread.

But according to Gonzales, the green burger craze, that of eating the *pinangat* as putty for bread buns, was a rather late discovery here.

She said it started a few years back when a very attractive young Chinese-Pilipino businesswoman for several months drove herself from her home in Polangui, Albay, to this town to buy freshly cooked *pinangat* and ate it with bread she brought with her.

The young woman had stopped coming to her restaurant. But the craze quickly caught on among her local customers who in turn, by word of mouth, spread it to almost everyone.

So now, at the break of dawn, drivers, students and mostly young customers are the most ardent followers of the so-called green burger craze.

### Unselfish sharing

"There is no secret to the success of the *pinangat* save for dedication to a high level of quality, creativity and innovation. These are the things I have always said in interviews with reporters of radio, television and magazines," Gonzales said.

She said she personally supervised all the stages of the tedious process—from the chopping of the *apay* and the scraping and squeezing of the coconut milk to packing them in Styrofoam containers.

She has been enjoying her venture and could not imagine what to do should she retire.

"I believe it is the best education and gift I can give my workers and members of my family: by teaching them a lifetime calling and a business so unique that other people might be dying to learn and emulate," she said.

But my only regret is that some individuals driven purely by profit have gone into the industry using the same "Camalig special *pinangat*" label but do not do justice to it by making shoddy imitations.

### Bright future

After breaking through international barriers and establishing a wide following, the coming generations of *pinangat* producers would likely have an easier time.

But still, according to Gonzales, the main hurdles would be the prohibitive cost of technology specifically on the stages of research, packaging and marketing to be truly competitive globally.

Another maybe is the lack of government financing and marketing support.

"For now, I am content with what I can produce, between 200 and 500 pieces per day, which could become hundredfold if done using modern technology and equipment.

But this should be coupled with skillful marketing and financing," she said.

Because of its soaring popularity both here and abroad, she said, two big outfits—a Bicol-based mall chain and a Seoul, North Korea-based food maker—have approached her to be partner.

But she refused both offers, saying that at this stage in her life she might not fit into a corporate environment and that being big would not guarantee her satisfaction and enjoyment while doing a gainful task.

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SundayBIZ

# Lady bakes in a castle that chocolate built

NEIGHBORS snickered and called the place an eyesore but the Chocolate Lover castle has become a landmark in Cubao.

By Meluchi A. Rivera
*Contributor*

MOST little girls dream about being a queen and living in a castle. But how many of them grow up and actually live that dream?

Look up the Cubao shop of Annie Carmona Lim, who is doing just that. Travel north on C. Benitez Ave., follow the turn past Mariposa, and there, as one descends from a knoll, it will loom large and hulking up ahead.

It's a castle—complete with gables, huge dormer windows and turrets. It is seven stories and 2,400 square meters that seem to dwarf the two-lane P. Tuazon Boulevard and C. Benitez Street that cross in front of it.

However, enter this tribute to whimsy and one is surprised that Lim, the castle's owner and occupant, is anything but whimsical and flighty. "Everyone asks me that," she smiles when asked about her unique abode, then says matter-of-factly, "I just wanted to be unique. I wanted to build something that would become a landmark in Cubao."

DIFFERENT flower satin decor used in the various chocolate goodies of the shop.

## PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

Lim and husband Roberto are the moving force behind Chocolate Lover Inc., a shop which aims to fill most every baker's need. Thus one can wander through racks of pans, trays and cookie sheets, molds cutters; ingredients such as pecans, nuts, marshmallows and candy sprinkles; packaging items such as boxes, jars and tins. But, as the name implies, much of the business revolves around that dark, creamy and dreamy substance from ground cacao nuts—chocolate.

Lim's store carries in it chips, chunks and blocks of myriad colors. There is white (very sweet), light sienna (milk chocolate), deep ochre (semi-sweet), and surprisingly, orange, pink and yellow (fruit-infused). The selection doesn't stop there—there are also chocolate-covered nuts, raisins and the like. Most items are imported; though Lim produces a lot of the signature chocolate products in-house.

Chocolate Lover caters to all bakers, from budding wannabe's to large-scale producers. "I envisioned it to be an industrial grocery," says Lim. "Small buyers can buy retail while those who own bakeries can buy bulk." Lim, on her own, also has a cooking school aptly called The Castle of Baking and Confectionery Arts (CBCA). Her school's forte? What else but—". . . how to cook, bake, decorate and mold chocolates," as her calling card boasts.

### Roots

Chocolate Lover's present massive home belies its humble beginnings. In 1989, Annie and Roberto started the business in the small apartment (incidentally, two paces away from their current location) that they were renting from Annie's mother. At that time, the Lims had been married for four years and had one daughter and another on the way. While not exactly starving, they struggled financially like any young couple. Roberto, a civil engineer, was running a small construction firm, but Annie, a passionate baker who had always been enterprising, would sell cakes upon order for extra income.

Lim's husband relates: "We would put out a small ad in the Manila Bulletin and wait for calls. I would be the delivery boy. It was that simple."

Even then, they noted that the business had promise. Annie's cakes sold well, providing the couple extra spending money. But the relative bounty was also seasonal, lasting only through Christmas until February, when there was business from Valentine's Day gift-giving. The couple needed something that would carry them through the whole year, but going large-scale meant going against giants such as Goldilocks and Red Ribbon. "We didn't have the capital to do that," Roberto recalls, "so we had to think of a unique business."

Almost instantly, Annie thought of chocolates. "Everyone I know loves chocolates, so I really felt that this would click," she explains. Relying mostly on word-of-mouth, the Lim's little operation selling chocolate and baking supplies began to attract loyal patrons, and lines soon formed outside their apartment. "Our living room was only about 20 square meters, so my wife and I had to put chairs outside and serve juice while the customers waited," Roberto explains. And true enough, they had come mainly for the chocolates. "We would gross P2,000 a day back in 1993 and we were so happy with that already."

The perennial queue attracted the attention of a Landbank branch manager, who would pass the Lims' apartment daily on his way to and from work. The bank manager befriended the Lim couple and convinced them to expand. This was in 1994, and by then Roberto had sold out of his construction firm and was helping his wife full-time. There were commercial spaces next door that Annie's mother would rent out to small establishments, and the couple took one slot for their shop.

But soon even the space became too small as the business continued to grow dramatically. By July 1995, the couple had managed to purchase the entire 629-sq.m. corner lot from Annie's family. "Landbank really supported us," Roberto confides. After the lot became theirs, "the manager kept pestering us to enlarge the place. He said, 'show me the plans and we'll finance it.'"

That was when Lim thought that if they were going to dream, they were going to dream big. The idea came of a structure that would house a much bigger shop, a cooking school, and the couple's home. Early blueprints only had hints of being a castle; but Lim wanted the works, and husband Roberto obliged by coming up with the present seven-story design.

### The castle

The Landbank manager didn't flinch when he saw their plans. "He didn't really comment about the design," Lim shrugs, "(he wasn't concerned about that) as long as we were capable of paying."

Apparently, Chocolate Lover was doing well enough to secure the P28-million loan and construction began in earnest in June 1996. Completion was originally set for the following year, but the 1997 financial crisis caused structural work to sputter. But slowly, through 1997 to 2000, the four floors of commercial space became operational; it was only in 2001 that the outer structure was fully finished.

Then, as now, people's reaction to their castle was mixed. Lim laughingly recalls how she would overhear passersby say, "*Sinong sira ang nagpagawa niyan?* (What crazy person would build that?)"

Even neighbors tried to dissuade her, saying it would be an eyesore in the area. But she shrugged off the criticism, noting that the area was full of ramshackle establishments and old apartments, as if to say, so which of us is the eyesore now?

Through it all, Lim showed true grit—and guts; elements needed by any entrepreneur to

LADY' B15


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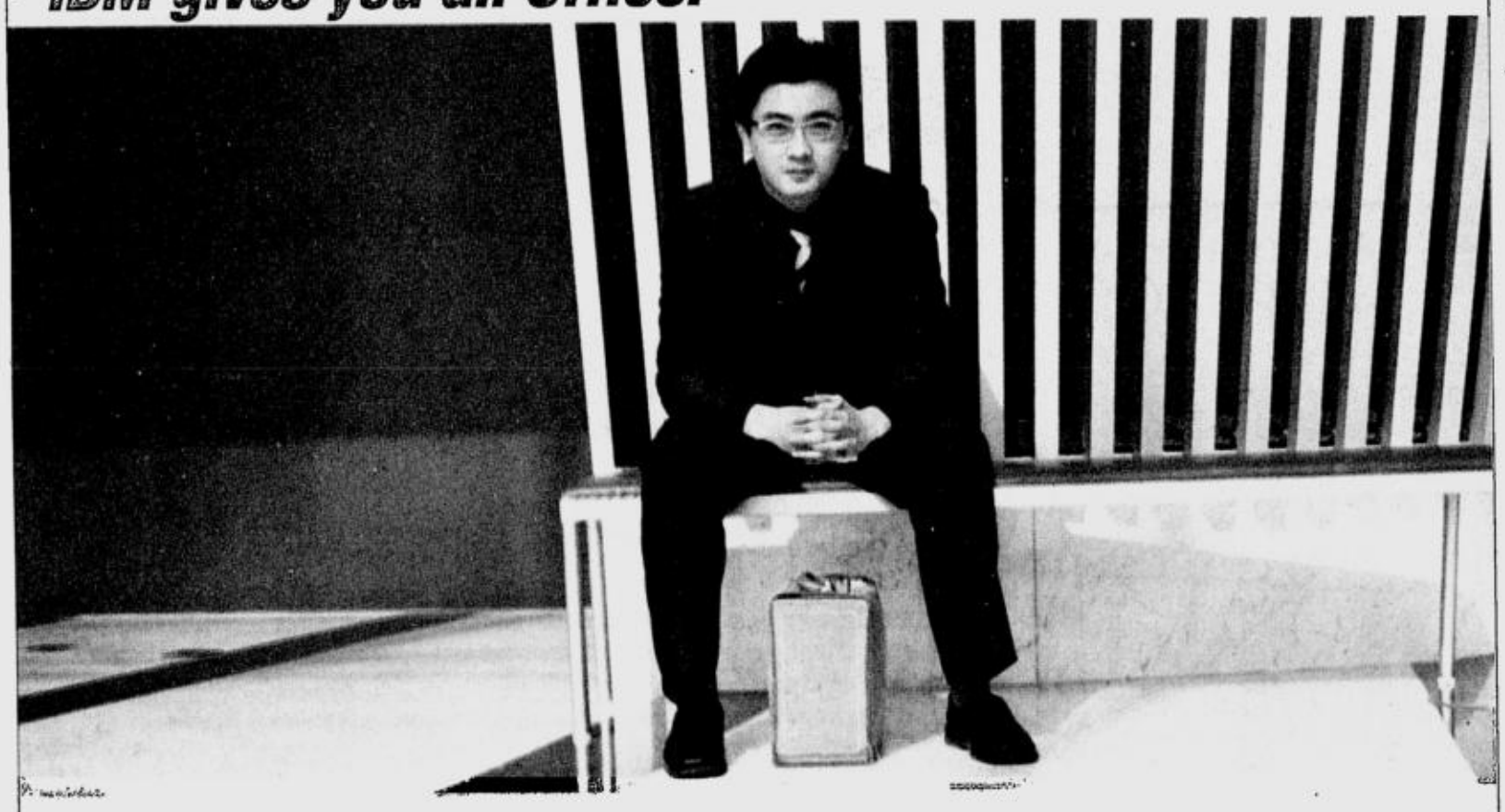

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Surprises!

OLD world grandeur of a silver vase

# Terms of *adornment*

Text by Chelo Banal-Formoso
Photos by Mike Alquinto

IN THE LEAD-UP to the Mikey Arroyo-Angela Montenegro wedding, the homes—yes, he has two—of Dr. Eleuterio "Teyet" Pascual are just as busy as the Malacañang Palace.

At the old Pascual residence on Laong Laan in Quezon City, plastic crates are being packed with vases, candelabras, candles and porcelain angels while in another part, huge torchiers and paintings are being protected in bubble wraps. At his home in the posh Pacific Plaza in Makati, Pascual is on the phone arranging for pick-up of the kneelers to be used in the nuptial rites in the St. John the Baptist Church in Lubao while his florist is confirming orders.

"Everybody expects a grand wedding at the Palace," says Pascual, who is ready as ready can be for a celebration that may just be the high watermark of the Arroyos' life in the Palace, at least until the next child's wedding (Dato is reportedly engaged to be married next year).

Weddings are Pascual's forte. His particular vocation is to spread joy in terms of adornment, and that he is bent to do for the Arroyo-Montenegro wedding reception at the Palace

TERMS/ p.C6

HIGH STYLE. Dr. Teyet Pascual (standing) in a huddle with florists Nick Raza (left) and Jayson Borja and friend Ingrid Chua-Go


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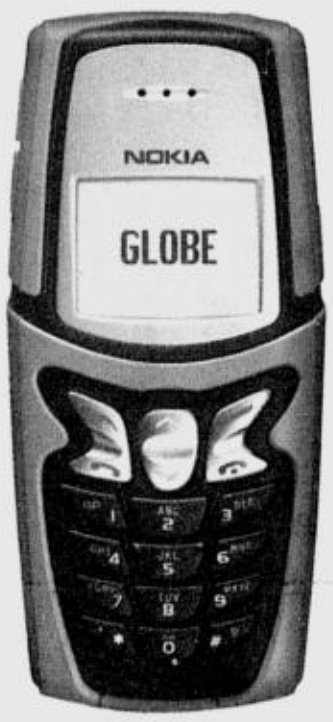


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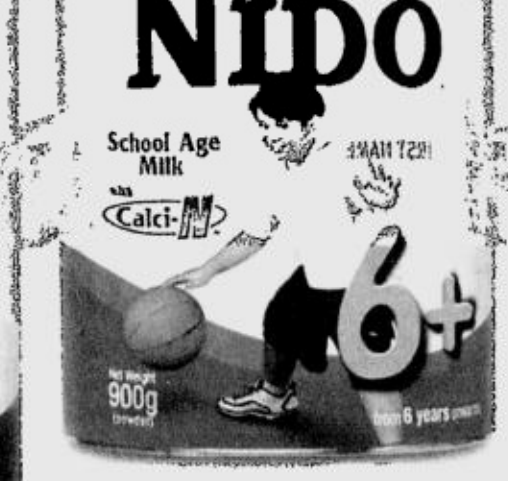


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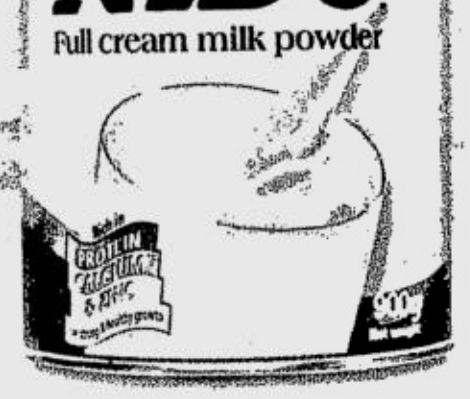
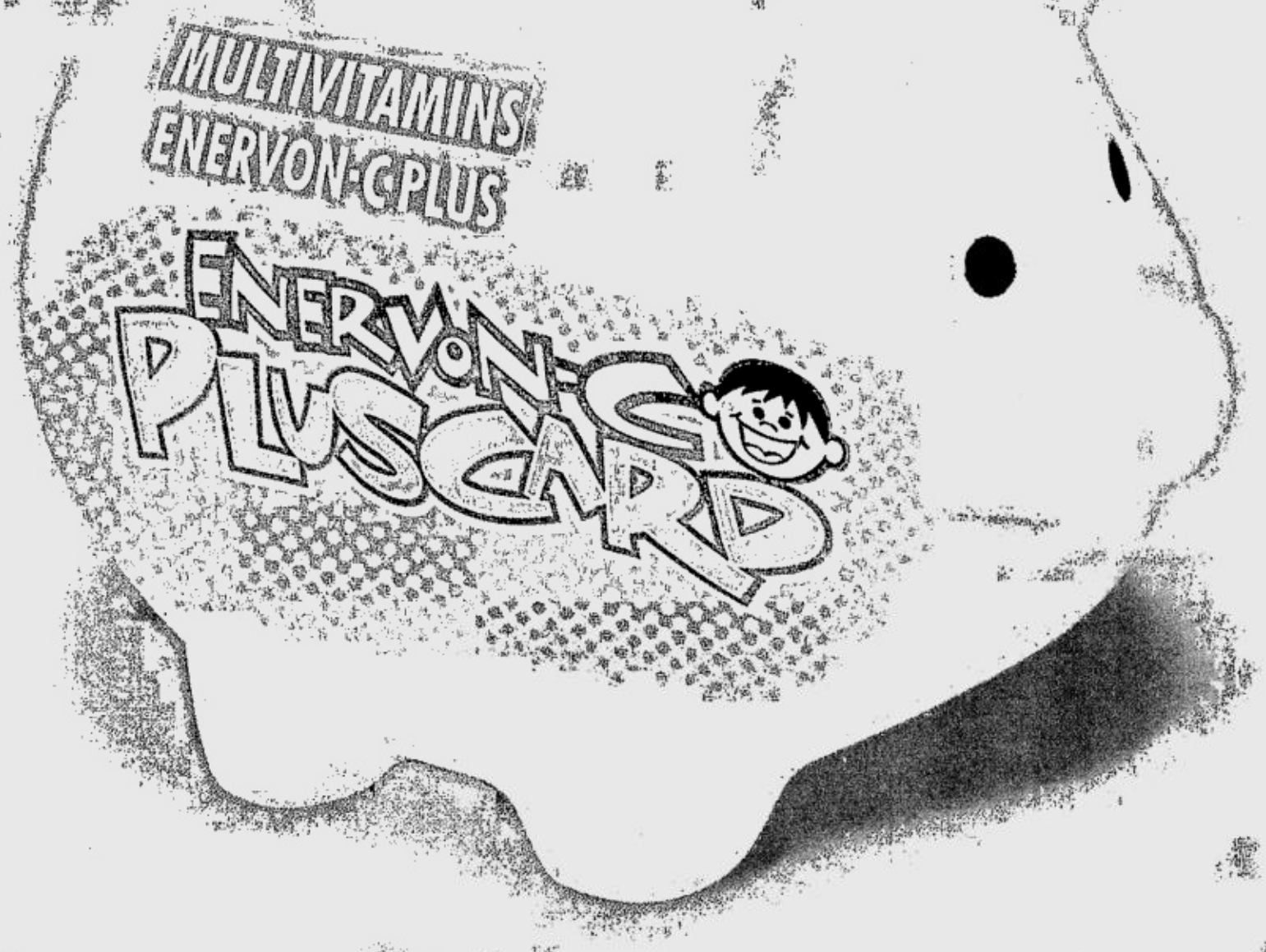



NIDO Full Cream promotes strong and healthy growth. It is rich in Protein, Calcium, and Zinc that builds your child's muscles, bones, and body resistance.

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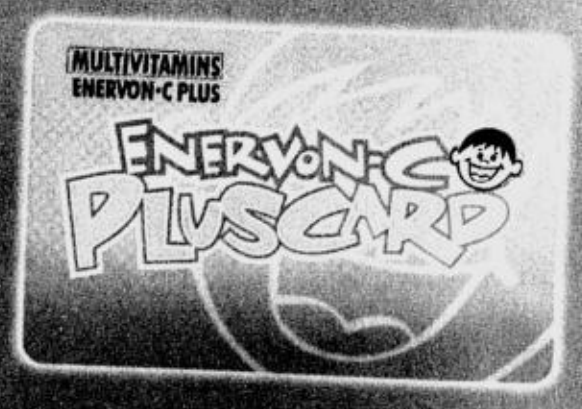


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# Armored in amour

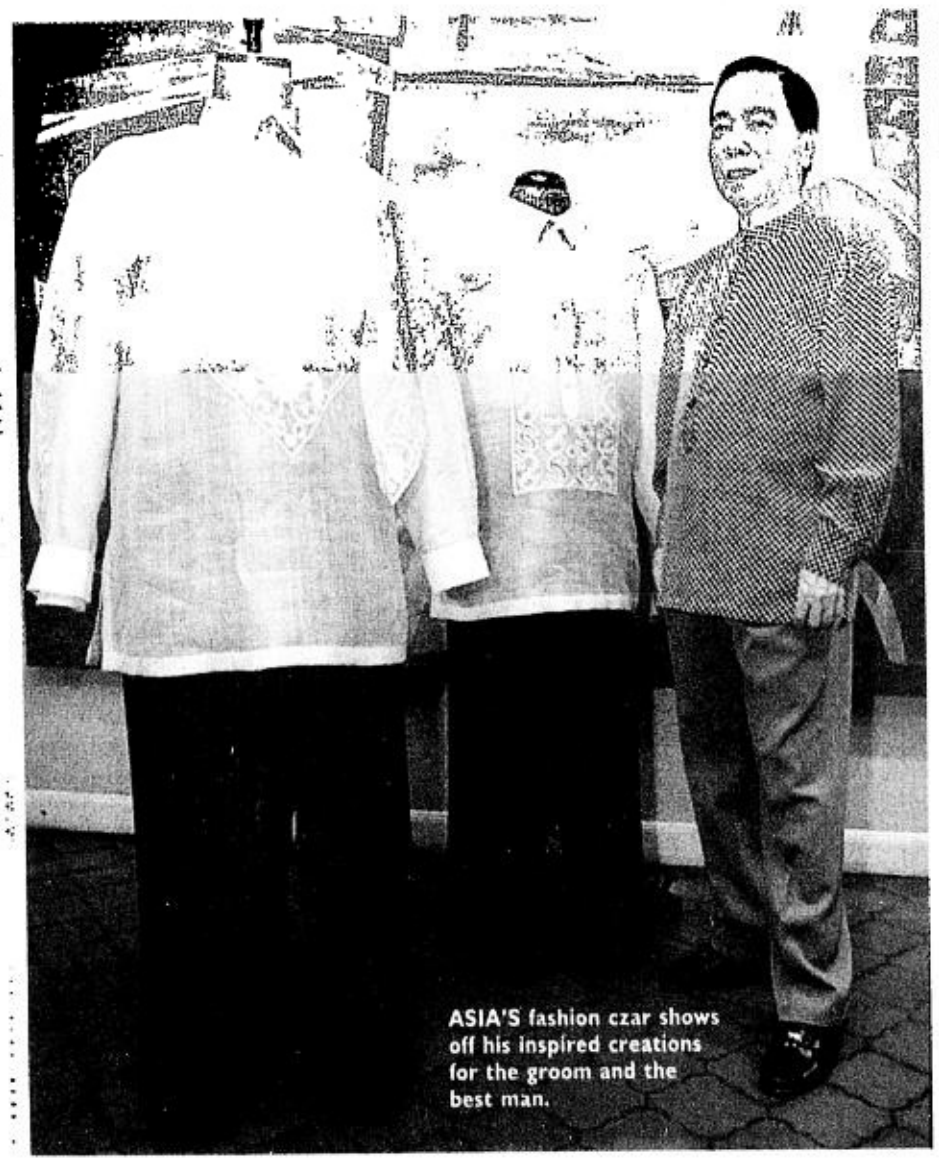
When he meets his lovely bride at the altar tomorrow, Mikey Arroyo will be garbed in the romance of a Pitoy Moreno barong

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Betoy Johnson**

VETERAN fashion designer Jose "Pitoy" Moreno has had to leaf through his book of Philippine costumes to come up with a special barong Tagalog for presidential son and Pampanga Vice Gov. Miguel "Mikey" Macapagal Arroyo.

Mikey will wear a 19th century-inspired barong made of *piña* when he weds Maria Angela Montenegro tomorrow morning in Lubao, Pampanga. Moreno has been doing the formal wear of Mikey and younger brother Dato since they were children.

He also used to dress President Macapagal-Arroyo when she and her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, were residents of Malacañang.



ASIA'S fashion czar shows off his inspired creations for the groom and the best man.

THE GROOM'S intricately detailed *piña* barong with pointed *pechera* and *alampay*

"How time flies," Moreno waxes nostalgic. "It feels so good to be part of this special event in Mikey's life. His barong and those of the male entourage have taken me more than three months to make."

Asia's fashion czar has toned down on flowery embroidery and instead focused on geometric patterns that adorn the edge of the barong's *pechera* and sides of the sleeves. The geometric patterns are interspersed with Moreno's version of "peace doves."

The *pechera* on Mikey's barong is pointed compared to that of Dato's, which is more conventional. Mikey's kid brother will also be wearing a *piña* barong with less ornate embroidery.

"I did away with the flowery design for a change," says Moreno. "I wanted to come up with something manly for Mikey. The doves reflect my wish for peace for the newlyweds and the entire nation."

Trust Moreno, however, to come up with a twist. A shawl or *alampay* made of the same material and embroidery will drape Mikey's left shoulder on the big day. The accessory is also inspired by the same era in Philippine history. A crisscross tie completes the look.

Moreno then designed a pair of Prince Albert-style black pants with pinstripes to go with the barong. In fact, every member of the male entourage will also be wearing dark pants with varying pinstripes.

"Mikey is so easy to work with," says Moreno. "He gave me a free hand to do anything. Perhaps due to his busy schedule, he hasn't even bothered to fit it [barong]." Such is the degree of trust that has been built through the years between Moreno and the Arroyos.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

FILIPINO costume from the 19th century which has influenced the groom's attire

# *Imperial Maria Clara for wedding of the year*

COUTURE virtuoso Joe Salazar fashions a modern Maria Clara without sacrificing classic fantasy for the bridal gown of Angela Montenegro. The reinvention consists of a detachable panuelo and a tube skirt inside a flowing skirt that extends to the floor as to become a breathtaking train. The gown is made of all-*piña* fiber, with the upper bodice in crushed pina for a more dramatic texture. Exquisite Filipino silver and gold embroidery using Swarovski stones complements the classic cut. The royal polish is finished off with a tiara, an heirloom from the bride's family, as headdress.

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American Woman *Lenny Kravitz* TONE AMERICANWO • Arctic Loon *zed* TONE ARCTIC • Back In The USSR *Beatles* TONE BACKUSSR
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Fallin *Alicia Keys* TONE FALLIN • Flucktcher *zed* TONE FLUCK • Fly Away *Lenny Kravitz* TONE FLYAWAY • Happy Together *The Turtles* TONE HAPPY2GEDER
Human *Human League* TONE HUMAN • Mad Season *Matchbox 20* TONE MADSEASON • Song Thrush *zed* TONE MAVIS
May It Be (Lord Of The Rings) *Enya* TONE MAYITB • Ms. Jackson *Outkast* TONE MSJACKSON • Music Of My Heart *N'sync & Gloria Estefan* TONE MUSICHEART
My Girl *Westlife* TONE MYGIRL • Never Can Say Goodbye *Gloria Gaynor* TONE NEVERCAN • Orinoco Flow *Enya* TONE ORINOCO • Plover *zed* TONE PLOVER
Rhythm Is Gonna Get You *Gloria Estefan* TONE RHYTHMIS • Rio *Duran Duran* TONE RIO • Rugrats *TV Theme Rugrats* TONE RUGRATS
Seagull *zed* TONE SEAGULL • Teal *zed* TONE TEAL • Ticket To Ride *Beatles* TONE TICKET2 • Wagtail *zed* TONE WAGTAIL • Widgeon *zed* TONE WIDGEON
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HARMONY IN MALACAÑANG'S MUSIC ROOM. Meissen vase goes with existing Meissen candelabra.

TWO of 10 lithographs of Philippine costumes dating back to 1845 that Dr. Pascual transported here from his home in London

After Mikey Arroyo and Angela Montenegro exchange nuptial vows in Pampanga, they will come home to a Malacañang Palace filled with the most brilliant accents that go with the glow

# Terms of *adornment*

From page C1

tomorrow evening. To the cocktail reception are invited the families and friends of the Arroyos and Montenegros.

Although he has no seating plan to worry about because it's a standup function, Pascual has a thousand and one things to orchestrate. To help him is a staff of 30, including Ingrid Chua-Go, who has volunteered her services "for the love of Teyet," and florists Nick Raza (winner of the '97 Teleflora national competition and runner-up at the Teleflora tilt in Japan), Jayson Borja (who is also a fashion designer) and Simon Espinosa. Ingrid became Pascual's close friend after being bowled over by Pascual's setup for her own wedding in July last year to Patrick Go.

Two more areas in the Palace, the Rizal Hall and the music room, have been added to the three that Pascual was originally asked to decorate, which were the state dining room and reception and ceremonial halls.

Banish the thought of renting aluminum chairs with polyurethane paddings if you're working with Pascual. And no tables covered with vinyl, please.

"The glamour begins once the guests step off their cars," says Pascual, who is responsible even for the tents where the gifts will be deposited and guests will be welcomed. A 130-meter tapestry carpet will be spread on the walkway and will be bordered alternately by porcelain angels and candles.

Pascual is dressing up even the trees in the garden with torchiers and halogen lamps. "No Tivoli lights because Tivoli lights are for amusement parks and Malacañang is a palace," quips the décor conductor. He is also setting up 15 tents. "Wherever the eyes alight, the spirit should be uplifted," says he. "*Hindi lang* tents," he notes. "With chandeliers and candelabras and white flowers and curtains of Viennese lace."

In keeping with the wedding's color palette, celadon and peach will be repeated everywhere. "This is an aesthetic exercise," says Pascual. "Everything should be in harmony."

Pascual's floral requirements alone are staggering. He is thankful that Angela's family owns the Pacific Flora farm in Batangas that will be supplying the blooms, except for the sampaguitas.

"Anybody can decorate with flowers but not everybody has a sense of drama," says Pascual of his floral feats.

The standing torchiers—of which there are 27—will be scalloped with sampaguitas and will contain white dendrobium orchids mixed with phalaenopsis orchids. White roses will be in the smaller empire candelabras, 70 in all, which will also be scalloped with sampaguita. The stairs from lobby to reception hall will also be embellished with sampaguita garlands because, as Pascual puts it, the scent of flowers should hit you the moment you enter the Palace.

In the reception hall, vanda orchids will be used in cachepots. There will be a big arrangement of orchids on the coffee table in the music room. On the console table will be more cachepots with celadon green dendrobium orchids.

Peonies will be used for Angela's bridal bouquet for the palace celebration.

### White lace and promises

What Pascual will deliver is his interpretation of belle époque elegance with the use of his own tools of the trade—fine china, ravishingly romantic fabrics, the shimmer of gold embroidery, the flourish of silver—storied pieces he has accumulated through years of traveling and collecting.

Cocktail tables in the reception hall will be clothed with white lace or gold/peach Brockatle with double fringes. In the ceremonial hall, two 120-m Brockatle tablecloths will cover the buffet tables.

For the state dining room, his inventory includes gold Brockatle tablecloth with double fringes, votive candles in diamond-cut crystals and Murano fruits in white porcelain.

"To retain the integrity of the Palace, we are matching the accessories with what is already there. Candelabras will match chandeliers. We are using either silver or crystal candelabras, not wrought iron *na panggarahe* or *pambakod*," Pascual notes with a naughty glint in his eyes. "In the Rizal Hall, since the chandelier is neo-classical, we will put neo-classical candelabras. In the music room, there is a Meissen candelabra so we will use Meissen vases."

Pascual, who also decorated the Montenegro home for the *despedida de soltera*, was first asked to orchestrate the nuptial décor at the Palace during the launching of Inquirer columnist Amando Doronila's book. "I thought the President wouldn't recognize me, but she called me and said, 'Come and sit by me,'" relates Pascual. "She said her son was getting married and would I help and I said that was no problem."

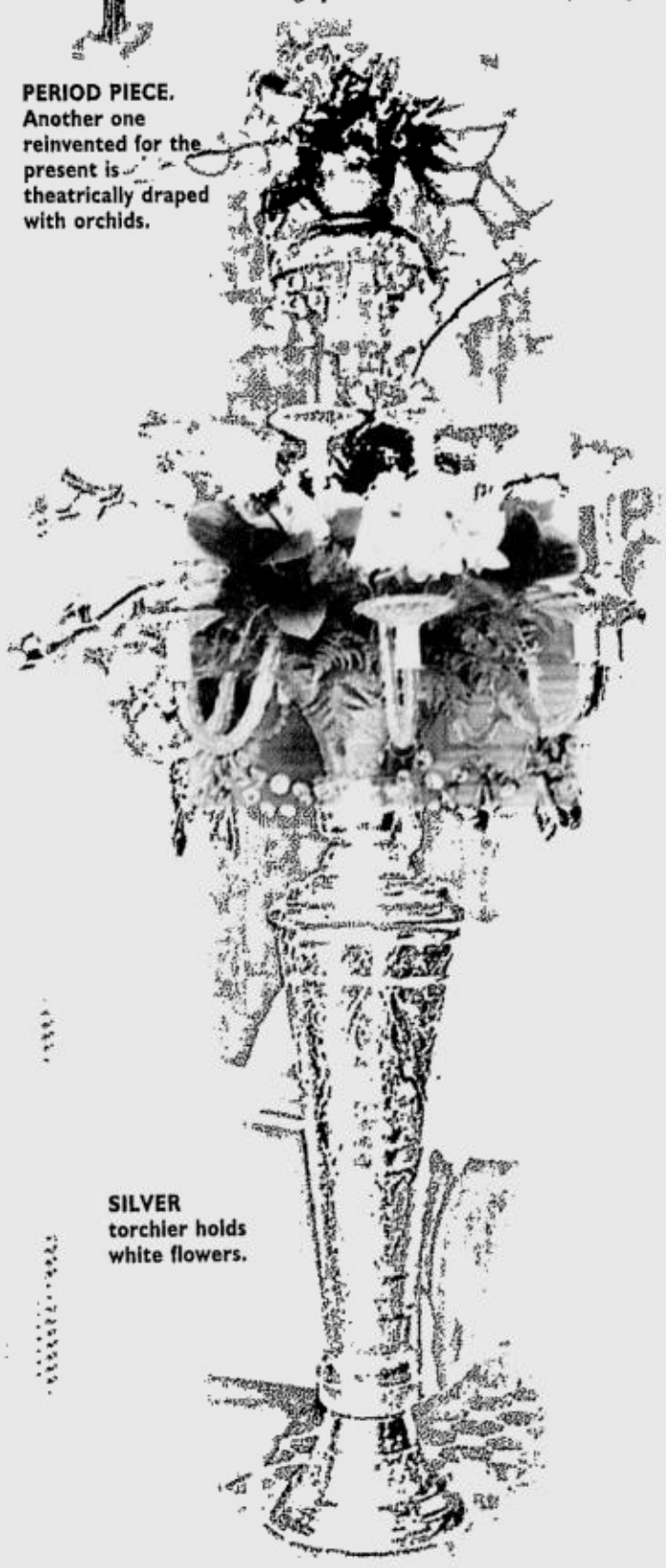
No problem? A 10-wheeler and two trucks are, as of this writing, commuting between his QC home and the Palace to deliver Pascual's heirloom stuff, many of them fragile, so that he can lend dramatic distinction to what otherwise may turn out to be just another wedding in the Palace.

As Teyet Pascual himself puts it, the occasion is "a singular event and should be uniformly elegant and in high style."

ONE of a pair of 19th-century Barbidienne torchiers to be used in the Palace for the wedding reception

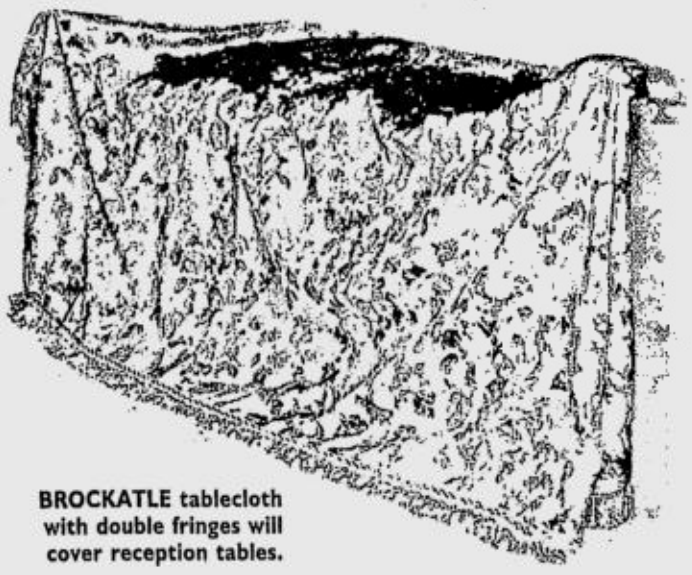
CRYSTAL candelabra goes with crystal chandelier.

CACHEPOT of Meissen distinction makes a statement with orchids.



PERIOD PIECE. Another one reinvented for the present is theatrically draped with orchids.

BLUE and white porcelain stands for garden tents



BROCKATLE tablecloth with double fringes will cover reception tables.

SILVER torchier holds white flowers.

ALL wrapped-up candelabras and décor items packed in plastic crates are ready to be moved to the Palace.

# Couples for Christ's first agri-trade fair a success

By Tita Giron

JARDIN Isabel of West B Sector wins first prize.

BROMELIADS and birds nest ferns at Tarlac booth

WHEN Couples for Christ (CFC) members embark on a project, they do it in a big way. Their first attempt at staging a national trade and agriculture fair to mark their anniversary week proves it. Marikina Riverbanks Center, site of the celebration, probably has not seen as big an event as this with all CFC chapters from all over the country turning up, throwing themselves enthusiastically into various activities—exhibits, trade sales, games and, best of all, a garden show! The event also provided an appropriate backdrop for the launch of a book, the first practical guide to vegetable container gardening in the city.

It goes without saying that the CFC is a force to reckon with. A member told us that about 10,000 visitors and participants flock to the agri-trade and fun fair daily. The crowd is expected to swell to 60,000 when the fair winds down this weekend.

Local garden clubs can learn some lessons from the CFC folks in organizing shows. For a first-timer, their mini garden show was a hit despite the fact that only sectors from Laguna, Bulacan and Cavite participated. They may not all have green thumbs, but they were resourceful enough to collaborate with professional landscapers and plant traders for the exhibit. The end result was worth the competition judges' time and sweat as they rated the landscaped plants and booths in the muggy temperature on the riverbank.

### Mini garden show

First timers but certainly no green horns, the garden show exhibitors landscaped half of the very compact 25-square-meter booths and filled the other half with plants for sale. Judges Serapion Metilla, Lily Javate, and this writer were unanimous in their choices of outstanding plants and landscape.

Showmanship, health of plants, and overall impact of exhibit were rated to choose the winners.

Sights and sounds should have been the title of the garden show. Outstanding in this show were the bold colors of flowers and the sounds of gurgling water in the miniature waterfalls and pools. Evidently the current rage, table waterfall gardens were everywhere.

Garden booth winners included: Jardin Isabel of West B Sector, first place; Kauzz Garden of Bulacan Sector, second place; and Le-Ann-Carl Garden of Pampanga Sector, third place.

Winners in the plant competition were: best bromeliad, Jing Kelly's Garden, Central A Sector; best heliconia, Jing Kelly's Garden; best orchid, Valesol Garden, Laguna Sector; and best bougainvillea, Jardin Isabel.

*The agri-trade fair and garden show ends June 23. We'd like to thank Couples for Christ garden show coordinators Chinggay Cayanga and Chona Nillas and Foresight Books president Olivia Limpe-Aw. Photos of the garden show were taken by Cayanga. For more information on the guidebook, e-mail Aw at olivelaw@limtuacodistillery.com or call 361-7491.*

## Meet Handyphone's 5-millionth subscriber

PERPETUA Papa was preparing to spend a typical weekend at home when a late Friday night call on her Globe cell phone abruptly changed her plans. The 30-year-old mother of two immediately went to Manila in time for the event at Araneta Coliseum.

Perpetua was the five-millionth subscriber of Globe Handyphone. Congratulating and handing out a plaque to her was no less than the president and CEO of Globe Telecom himself, Gerardo Ablaza Jr. She also received from Globe a cash prize of P10,000 and a brand new Nokia 9210.

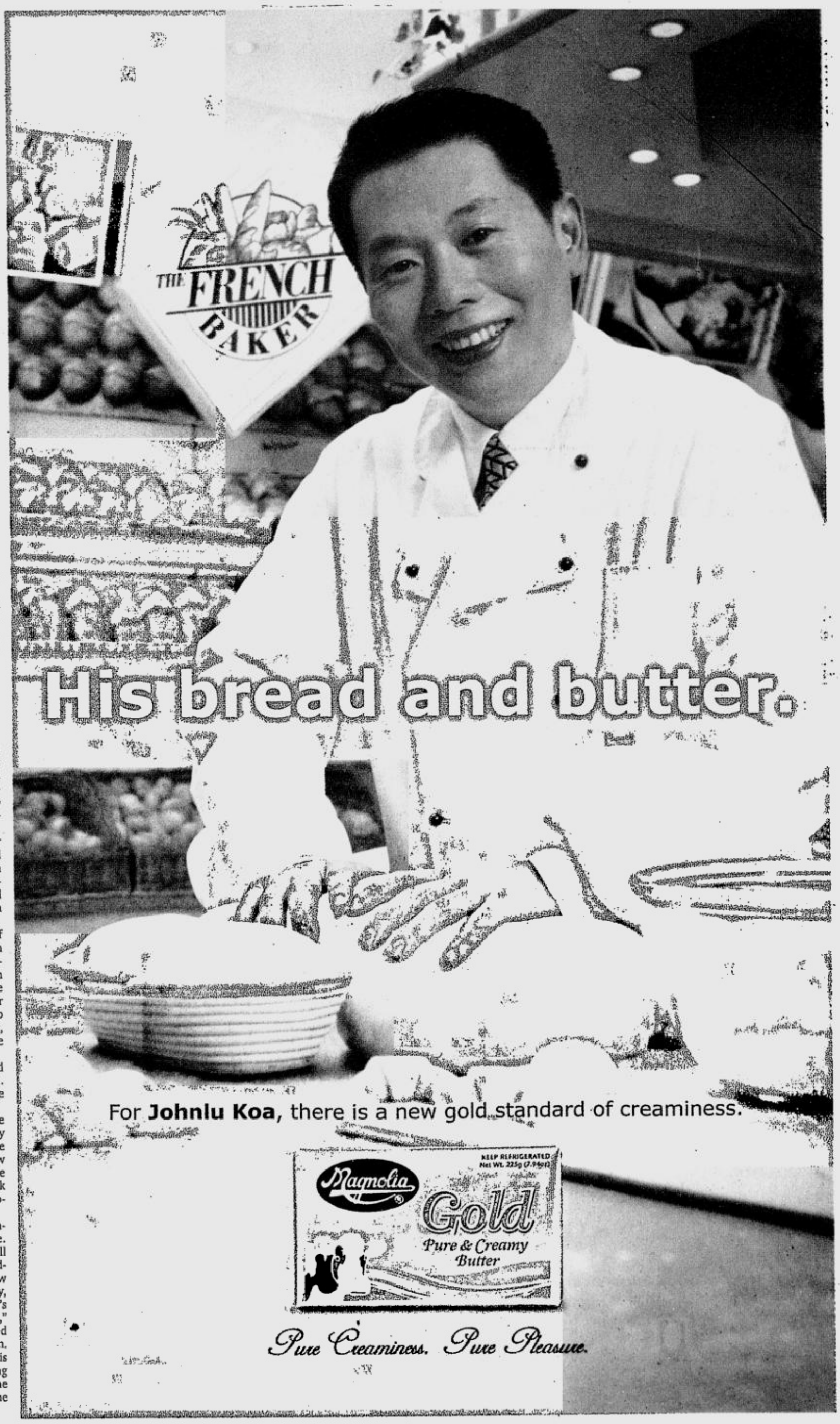
The presentation of Perpetua was one of the centerpieces of the "Globe to the 5th Power" celebration held at the Araneta Coliseum and shown over GMA-7. The celebration commemorated Globe's attainment of the major subscriber milestone with an all-star cast entertainment extravaganza. It was also the culmination of Globe's Txtrs 5 game show, where five million in cash prizes and five BMWs were given away as major prizes.

"I'm very happy and satisfied," said Perpetua who hails from Alegria, Cebu. "Globe really went to great lengths to take care of me."

As fate would have it, Perpetua came to be the five-millionth subscriber of Globe mostly by accident. "My father recently lost his Globe cellphone and asked me to buy him a new one. What I didn't know was that the Globe Handyphone I bought for him just only a week ago would make me the five-millionth subscriber of Globe."

Perpetua is also one of the most avid endorsers of Globe in her home province. "Globe's service is very good in Alegria—full bars all the time—that's why all of us, including our neighbors, are on Globe. We now have three Globe Handyphones in our family, which we put into good use in our family's fishing boat business to supply fish to Cebu," she said. Perpetua has two daughters, aged eight and four, and her husband is a seaman.

We may not know how good Perpetua is at catching fish when she is on their fishing boat, but we certainly know how good she is when it comes to picking the perfect time to get a Globe!



# Simply cream of the crop

**Be Not Nobody / Vanessa Carlton**
*A Thousand Miles*
Keyword:**thousandmiles**

**A Walk To Remember - OST / Various Artists**
*Only Hope by Mandy Moore* Keyword:**onlyhope**
*Cry by Mandy Moore* Keyword:**cry**

**Rio Moods / Antonio Carlos Jobim**
*The Girl From Ipanema*
Keyword:**ipanema**

**J To Tha Lo: Remixes / Jennifer Lopez**
*I'm Real*
Keyword:**imreal**

**Spider-man - OST / Various Artists**
*Bug Bytes by Alien Ant Farm*
Keyword:**bugbytes**

**18 / Moby**
*We Are Stars*
Keyword:**wearestars**

**R&B Xpress / Various Artists**
*Because I Got High by Afroman*
Keyword:**igothigh**

**Room For Squares / John Mayer**
*No Such Thing*
Keyword: **nosuch**

**Untouchables / Korn**
*Here To Say*
Keyword:**heretosay**

**Ashanti / Ashanti**
*Foolish*
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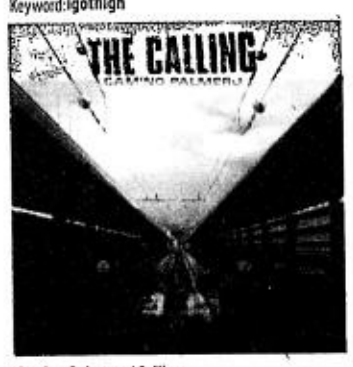
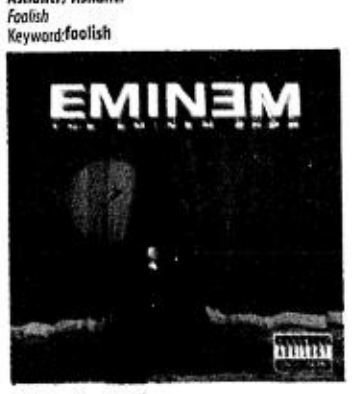



**Camino Palmero / Calling**
*Wherever You Will Go*
Keyword:**youwillgo**

**I Am Sam - OST / Various Artists**
*Blackbird by Sarah McLachlan*
Keyword:**blackbird**

**Josh Groban / Josh Groban**
*The Prayer*
Keyword:**prayer**




**Eminem Show / Eminem**
*Without Me*
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| 2 | **Eminem Show** Eminem | 7 | **I Am Sam-OST** Various Artists | 12 | **Come Away With Me** Norah Jones | 17 | **Fever** Kylie Minogue | 22 | **Camino Palmero** Calling |
| 3 | **Chill Out Project** Various Artists | 8 | **Room For Squares** John Mayer | 13 | **Ashanti** Ashanti | 18 | **One 2 One** Gary Valenciano | 23 | **Revive** Gary Valenciano |
| 4 | **Untouchables** Korn | 9 | **Acoustic Love Songs** Side A | 14 | **Project 11-41** Slapshock | 19 | **Pinakamamahal** Aiza Seguerra | 24 | **Gutterflower** Goo Goo Dolls |
| 5 | **Josh Groban** Josh Groban | 10 | **Look Of Love** Diana Krall | 15 | **Reigne: Revised** Regine Velasquez | 20 | **Rio Moods** Antonio Carlos Jobim | 25 | **R&B Xpress VI** Various Artists |

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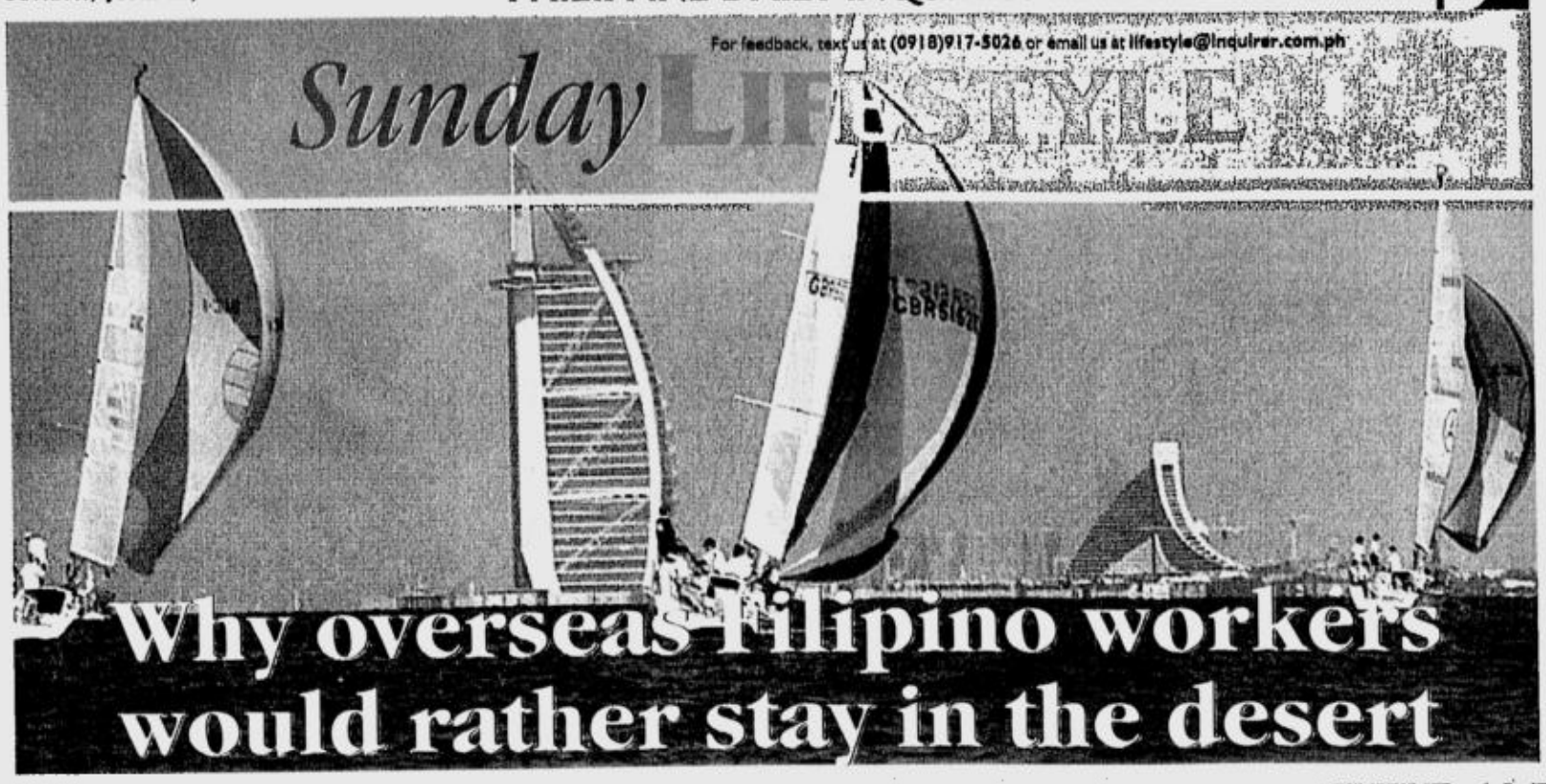

# Why overseas Filipino workers would rather stay in the desert

The most liberal of Arab states is a place of pampering and some reprieve for the Pinoy wanderer

THE DUBAI-MUSCAT race with the Burj Al Arab in the background

By Constantino C. Tejero

ONE HOUR and 30 minutes of driving through the desert is utterly boring. The long, long stretches of white landscape and the monotonous humming of the car's engine as it traverses the distance between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, send us to sleep.

And then it happens. A companion wakes up, gawks, and mutters it's like the parting of the Red Sea.

Because, on both sides of the six-lane highway, in the middle of the desert, shimmering skyscrapers suddenly loom up, rose-colored, blue, green, gold, silver, their metallic sheen and reflections and the afternoon sunlight on glass looking like water cascading, rippling, streaming down.

This is the entrance to the city of Dubai, the commercial capital of the United Arab Emirates. So this is why overseas Filipino workers are flocking to this place, despite the heat that's almost unbearable.

The vista here is more impressive than in the financial districts of Makati and Ortigas combined. Particularly impressive are the twin Emirates Towers, the fourth tallest building in the world, glowingly white and distinctively shaped in the distance.

Unlike the grim societies of Islamic fundamentalist states, here one can see natives in fashionable Western clothes, not just your basic *condura* and *abayya*.

### More remittances

Also, establishments here offer a cavalcade of nighttime entertainment. There are nightclubs (though no strip joints, but a lot of belly dancers), rock bands, and—alcohol is allowed, and you can find pork in specialty restaurants.

With the country hosting 202 nationalities (mostly workers helping to reclaim the desert), there's such a plenitude of customs and costumes, languages and religions, that there's no other way but to cooperate or coexist, to hold up the basic structure of society. Otherwise they'd collapse together.

There are 1.5 million Filipinos in the Middle East. Over 150,000 of them are in the UAE—and these are the registered workers, not counting their 20,000 dependents and the 30,000-40,000 undocumented ones. Of these, some 80,000 are in Dubai.

"The remittances of OFWs in the UAE are four times those in Saudi," says job recruiter Marian Sanchez Carella, who's married to an Italian.

According to the latest data (year 2000), each OFW in the UAE remitted an average of $1,800 to their families in the Philippines.

"My impression is that there are more Filipino women here than men," says Labor Undersecretary Khalid Al Khazraji. "They are usually domestics, salesladies, nurses, waitresses." He has a Filipino domestic for eight years now.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Saif Saeed Bin Saed cites Filipino domestics as "safe, not dangerous, very clean, can speak English, able to cook." There are three Filipinos on his household staff, one of which has been with the family for 10 years.

### Peculiar problems

The government is now encouraging the import of skilled labor, the biggest sector in need being the construction industry, followed by trading, government, tourism, information technology, then the financial industry. There are about 10,000 Emirati graduates every year, and a challenge for the government is to provide them with jobs.

But our OFWs should take heart. According to industry sources, there will be 30,000 jobs for Filipinos in the UAE in the next five years.

"Other than regular problems, there's no special problem with Filipino workers here," says the labor undersecretary.

Carella, who has recruited over 1,000 OFWs through the years, cites peculiar problems, however. "Even here, they have retained their tribalism," she says. "They're hard to discipline, and there's still that crab mentality."

And there's a growing problem, too: the difficulty with communication in English among the new batch of OFWs, particularly the products of the relatively new school system that uses Filipino as medium of instruction (this while other nationalities are trying to learn English).

Of the problems OFWs encounter in the

WHY/ p.D7

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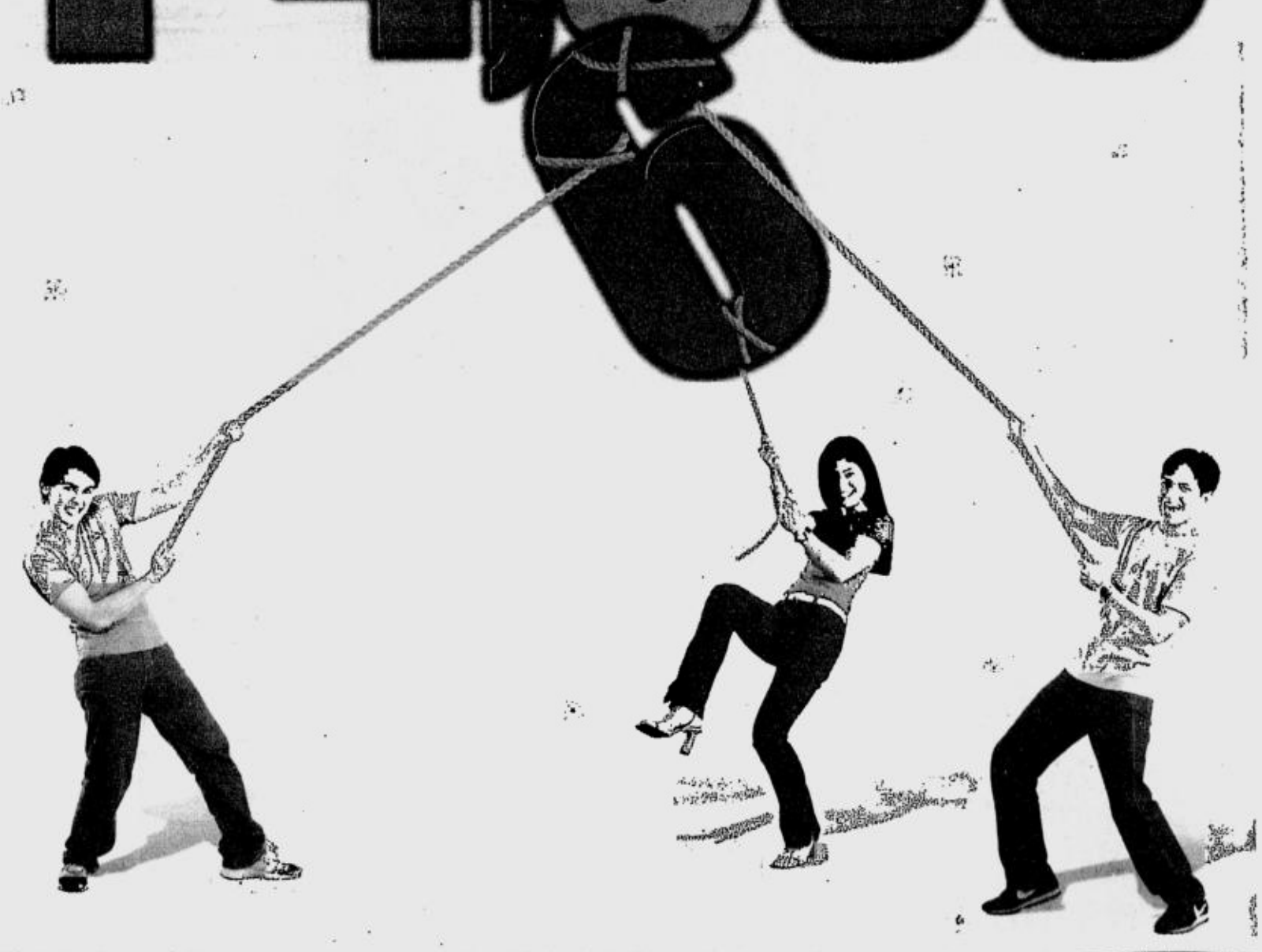

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ON A WING AND A PRAYER

# Visits to an ashram and two NGOs

By Sr. Mary John Mananzan, O.S.B.
*Contributor*

I LANDED at the Mumbai International Airport at 11:30 p.m. We drove into the night to a little town in Maharashtra to the ashram that would be my home for the next 10 days.

During the two-hour drive, I thought, I really am in India now—the land of the exotic, of temples and ashrams, of gods and goddesses, of women wearing gaily colored saris with flowers in their hair, of elephants, of rice and *dhal* and *chapatti*—and also of poverty, of political and social unrest that recently exploded into a bloody massacre in Gujarat.

The ashram is a beautiful green oasis surrounded by bare mountains and parched land. My 10 days in this sacred place was filled by hours of meditation, chanting, reading, nature walks and *seva* (selfless service), which is a part of an ashram experience.

The day in the ashram started at 3:30 a.m. with an hour-and-a-half of meditation followed by morning tea then an hour of chanting. Then one goes to one's *seva* but has still much time for private meditation and reading. The day ends with a half-hour of chanting.

The *seva* was a unique experience for me. I was assigned to the *amrit* (a kind of canteen). I was rotated to fruit cutting, to cookie preparation, to counter, and finally for the most part of my stay as cashier. (No wonder, when I presented myself at the Seva Center, the lady looked at the form I filled and said, "Mmm, Ph.D. in philosophy, but can you count money?")

I noted the presence of many foreigners from Germany, Sweden, Hawaii, the US, Mexico, Israel, France, even Russia, to name but a few. There were more women than men and a lot of young people in their teens who chanted enthusiastically, meditated with great fervor, and seemed to enjoy their *seva*.

### Confirmation

Another thing special about the ashram was that its guru was a woman, fondly called Gurumayi. The guru is not just a teacher but someone designated by the former guru before he or she dies to continue the lineage. The guru must be a realized being who can awaken the spiritual energy of the devotees and guide them in their *saddhana* (or spiritual journey).

This fact is a confirmation of a hypothesis in my sabbatical research. Feminists theologians agree that institutionalized religion have liberating and oppressive aspects.

My hypothesis is that the oppressive aspects are found in the realm of religiosity—in the development or maldevelopment that happens when the founders of religions, in their desire to share their experience of transcendence, gather around themselves disciples who grow into a community, a church,

EKTA executive director Bimla Chandrasekar

a religious institution with codes of conduct, moral precepts, creeds, scriptures, clerical hierarchy.

When these are embedded in patriarchal cultures, they are used to justify and perpetuate the subordination and oppression of women. But when women claim for themselves the right to embark in the spiritual journey, they not only attain spiritual liberation, they often break through the oppressive structures of religious prescriptions.

My inner experience during my stay in the ashram goes beyond words, so I follow Wittgenstein's injunction: "Whereof one cannot speak, one should remain silent."

### Madurai

The 10 days went incredibly fast, and on May 10, I boarded the Indian Airlines flight to Madurai, via Chennai.

I was met at the airport by two graduates of our Intercultural Course on Women and Society, which the Institute of Women's Studies offers every year for Asia-Pacific-African women. They greeted me with a flower garland as thick as my arms, going down to my knees and weighing at least 5 pounds. They are faculty members of Lady Doak College, our partner institution that, in the last seven years, has sent seven teachers to our ICWS course, including its president, or principal, as she is called here.

Nirmala Jeyaraz, the principal, arranged quite a busy but interesting schedule for me. Right on the day of my arrival, after lunch and an hour of rest, she brought me to a women's organization, the Ekta (meaning "unity"), where I met the executive director, Bimla Chandrasekar, a truly remarkable woman.

With five other women, she founded Ekta in 1990 that offers services that cover what Gabriela, the Women Crisis Center, the Institute of Women's Studies and Isis provide.

The women of Ekta are into women's awareness courses both for grassroots and students, engage in advocacy campaigns for women's political participation, against violence against women, especially dowry deaths and female infanticide. They also do counseling for victims of violence. They have initiated the White Ribbon Campaign among men to eliminate violence against women. They also do documentation and publication.

### Impact on women

Asked about her opinion about religion's impact on women, Bimla said that, as a young girl in a Brahmin family, she had an aunt who was widowed at 18 and from then on had to wear a white sari, bangles and flowers in her hair removed, be put on a restricted diet, denied of all pleasures, prohibited from attending any social function, and, of course, forbidden to remarry. This same aunt used to threaten her that if she misbehaved, Yama, the God of the Dead, would cut off her tongue. She also related that a middle-class client, a battered wife, told her she suffered her husband's blows because she regarded him as her god. Bimla then pointed out to her that a god could surely not behave in such a way.

The next day, I visited two other NGOs—the Peoples' Watch and *arulagam* (house of compassion). The Peoples' Watch specializes on documenting, denouncing and campaigning against human rights violations. The wife of its director established a special desk on women's right called *sudhantra* (meaning "freedom").

Among the remarkable cases they related was that of a religious sister, a headmistress of a school and a political and social activist, who was arrested on Nov. 19 while traveling by bus from Bangalore to Tirunelveli, for carrying subversive materials connected with the Tamil separatist movement.

On Nov. 29, her superior expelled her from the congregation and wrote a letter to her communities, asking them not to meet her in person or allow her within any of the houses of the congregation or speak to others about the arrest.

Although there is some division of opinions about the sister's involvement, there is a consensus among NGOs and activists in the Church that a grave injustice was done to her by her congregation for expelling her without due process.

The *arulagam* houses young women who are cast off by their families for varied reasons, arrested prostituted women when they come out of jail, orphans, homeless women, etc. They are given skills training such as weaving and sewing, education and, sometimes, marriages are arranged for them.

After visiting these two organizations, I had lunch with a friend from way back, Gabriele Dietrich, a German theologian who has made India her home and is well known in feminist theologians' and political and social activists' circles. We had a lively reunion and she related to me the unprecedented *padayatra*, a foot march that covered 850 km in 53 days from Kanyakumari to Chennai.

This was to call attention to the miserable conditions of labor, especially the unorganized ones exacerbated by the policies of globalization. Two-thirds of the marchers were women, some in their 60s, mostly working in construction.

Gabriele introduced me to one such woman, N. Rukmaniyammal, 57 years old, district secretary of the Movement for Women's Rights, who was among the core group of the organizers of the march and who walked all the 850 km.

It was really great to meet such strong and courageous women. Women of Gabriela, *hindi tayo nag-iisa*!

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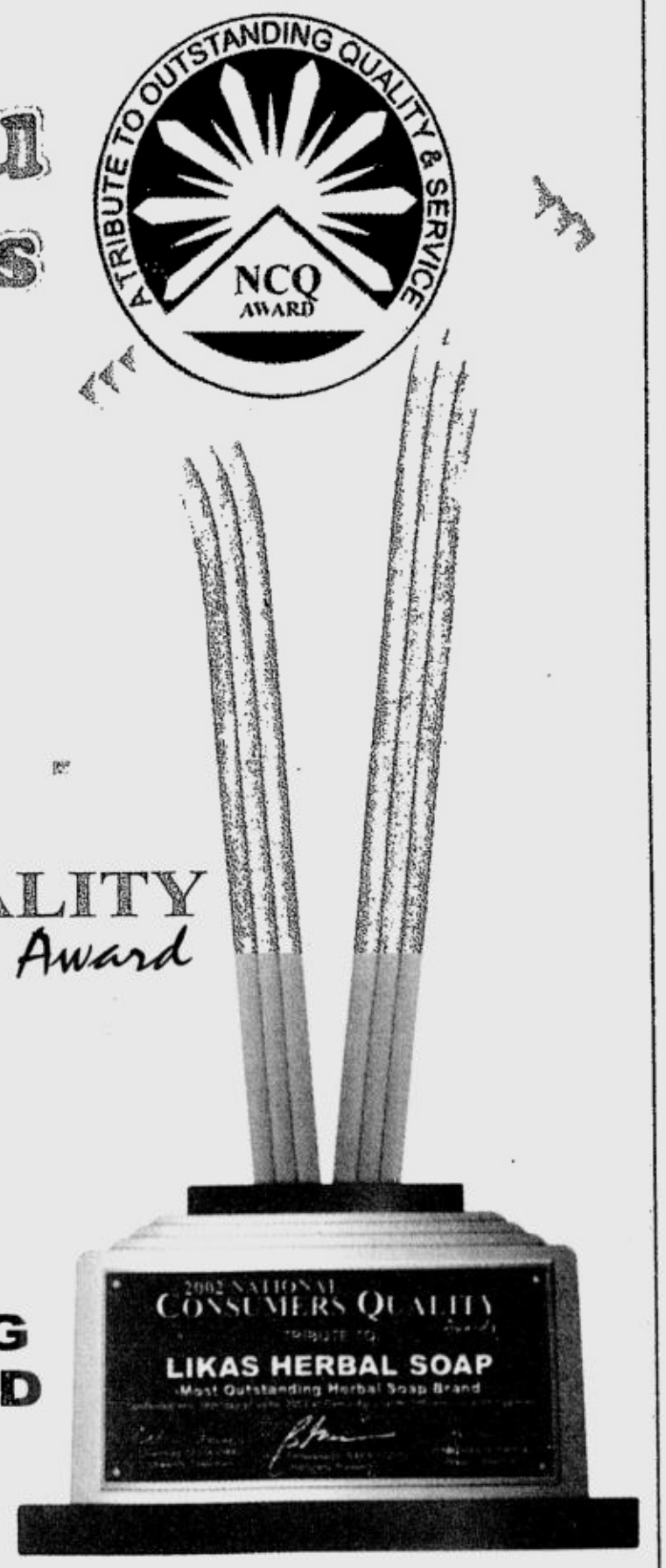


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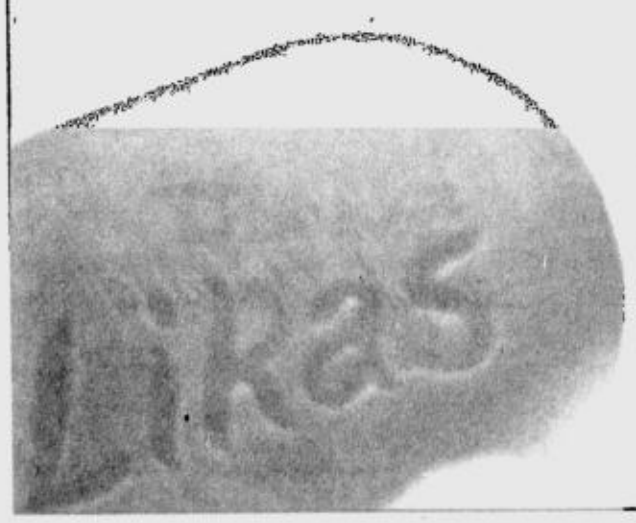


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# She is bothered by her husband's betrayal when he was still a bachelor

**DEAR Tita Dulce,**

**I would like to share my thoughts with a neglected husband who wrote to you.**

**I am not a neglected wife, and my husband is not an irresponsible man either. But I am unhappy, and most of the time, probably an unloving wife. It's because of the pain and hurt caused by his betrayal when we were still sweethearts.**

**He had an affair with his ex-girlfriend. I gave him all the space to explore and enjoy his bachelorhood without overdoing it. I trusted in the strength of his love and believed that no temptation could overpower what he called "unconditional love."**

**I still married him despite the pain in our relationship, believing that time heals all wounds.**

**After 12 years of marriage, I have tried many times to direct the feelings of hate by embracing and kissing him, telling him I love him when, in fact, I hate him. Of course, I love him, but his mistakes and shortcomings trigger the pain.**

**I know the emotion I feel is wrong; I want to stop it, but I cannot dictate it. Sometimes I want to take an overdose of medicines just to get rid of these feelings.**

**My children give me strength to fight this, and I have told my husband just to embrace me when he sees me crying.**

**I always make myself available to him for sex but at times I get the feeling of *pandidiri* knowing that my husband has gone to bed with another woman. I feel being likened to a pig.**

**There are only simple things I want from him—to respect our differences, to know that this is not a follow-the-leader relationship and concern for me as an individual. I cannot forget the insult I felt when he called me *bobo* in front of his family because I failed to remember something.**

**He is an executive and surely knows ethics and good manners. I am a vocational graduate; maybe I should go back to school to learn more so that I can communicate with his fellow executives, but he told me just to stay home and attend to our children.**

**To all guys out there, be nice to your lady friends and avoid inflicting pain because one of them may become your wife.**

**As what Tita Dulce said, woo your wife, embrace her always, cut off that affair with another, for who knows that might be the reason she will go back to her old ways. Being cold might be her defense mechanism not to get hurt even more. The more love, care and service given to her husband, the more hurt a wife feels when betrayed.**

**MNN**

Writing about the pain you feel may have lightened your feelings somehow. My suggestion is to let bygones be bygones.

This is not in his defense, but what bothers you is the memory of that affair when he was a bachelor. What you should do now is to be sure you are a gracious wife and nice to come home to, so that he will not prefer to spend more time with his fellow executives.

There are several ways to solve every problem. In order that he should not call you *bobo* again, consult a doctor and have him prescribe food supplements to keep your mind and physique in top shape.

You wrote the above to help explain to neglected husbands the reason(s) wives seem to neglect them. Let's hope they get to read this, and learn. One learns from the mistakes of others.

However, we must also remember that to err is just human, and to forgive is divine. We have to forgive and forget. However, as in your case, pain can remain and there is no instant pain reliever. There is, however, the power of the mind. If you give in to what is in there, you lose the fight. If you make up your mind to be strong, you will win.

Here is an example: When you have to go up a long flight of stairs and you fear the height and become afraid that you might fall; if that fear grips you, you just might trip and miss a step. But if you start climbing with positive thoughts, you will reach the top safely.

You have admitted that what you feel is wrong. That is already one good step. Also, keep praying that your husband will never do a repeat.

*E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City*

DERO Pedero with supermodel Kate Moss in New York

## Making impossible dreams come true

MUSIC composer, book author and lifestyle columnist Dero Pedero presents "Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True," the first and only seminar of its kind in the Philippines employing computer and video technology to present life-enhancing secrets, principles and techniques.

Well known in the entertainment field as a pop music and advertising jingle composer, Pedero reveals in the seminar the 12 Failure Anchors that keep people from being successful, the Nine Secret Universal Principles that you can use to achieve your impossible dreams, the Five Powerful Dream Achievement Techniques, Man's 12 Ultimate Goals in Life, Pedero's three formulas for guaranteed success and other success tips.

He recently published his first best-selling book titled "Jewels for the Mind."

The 4½-hour seminar will be held at the roof deck of the Buendia Tower, 501 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., across Houseware Square (between Bautista and the Buendia-Taft LRT station), Saturdays, 4-8:30 p.m. Participants will be served a light meal and awarded a certificate of attendance.

Pedero attended seminars in Los Angeles and New York of New Millennium guru Iyanla Vanzant, media magnate Steve Scott, entrepreneurial expert Barbara J. Winter, promotions genius Carol Sapin Gold, Arista Records president Clive Davis, top Hollywood agent Jay Bernstein and creativity specialist Sark.

Pedero took up Film Directing and Producing with Dov Simens at the Hollywood Film Institute, and studied Lighting for Film with Verne Carlson at the American Film Institute.

As a musician, he won the grand prize at the Metro Manila Popular Music Festival with "Isang Mundo, Isang Awit," wrote the hit songs "Narito Ako," "Buhay ng Buhay Ko," "Noong Unang Panahon" and "Ang Lahat ng Ito Para sa Iyo," and composed the advertising jingles for PLDT, Ovaltine, Rexona and SM Shoemart.

E-mail DeroSeminar@yahoo.com for inquiries and text or call Deena at (0920) 405-3233 for details.

## *Volunteer in service projects*

SIGN up for the Hands On Manila New Volunteers Orientation on June 28, 6 p.m., at Powerbooks, Pasay Road, Makati City. Volunteer in service projects of Hands On Manila's more than 20 partner organizations. You can choose programs for the children and youth, cleanup projects and environment, culture and arts, computer and technology.

Groups and corporations may also participate in the various projects that take place before and after office hours and on weekends. The only requirement is to attend the one-hour orientation, scheduled every month. To Call HOM at 843-7044 and 848-5231, or e-mail to handsonmla@edsamail.com.ph.

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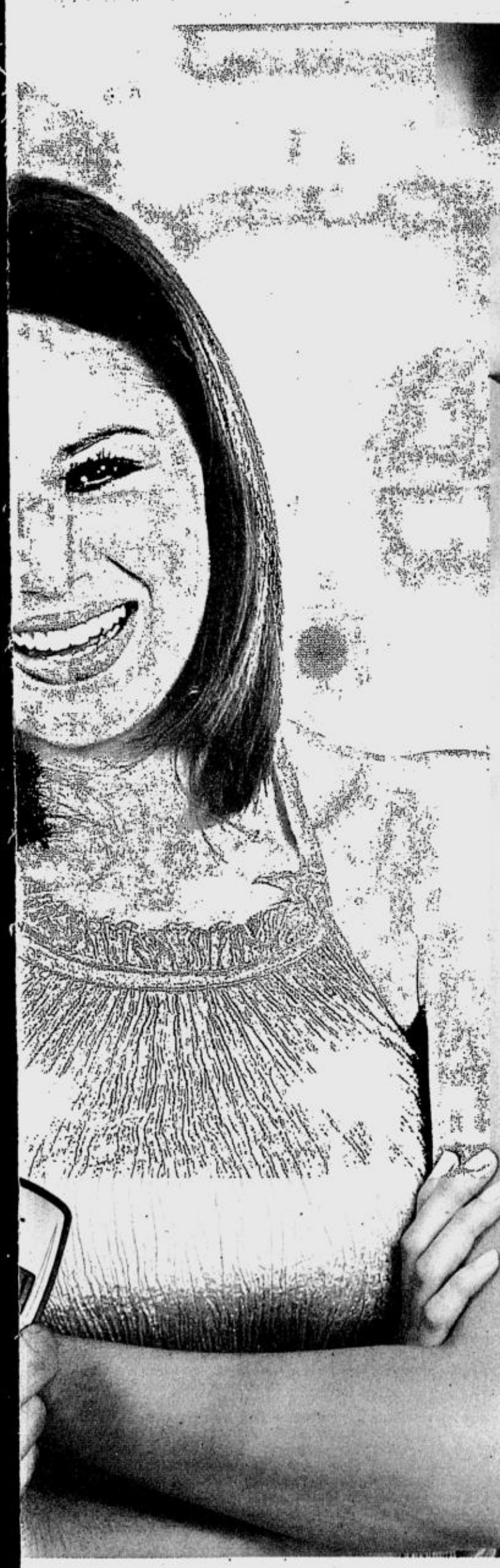

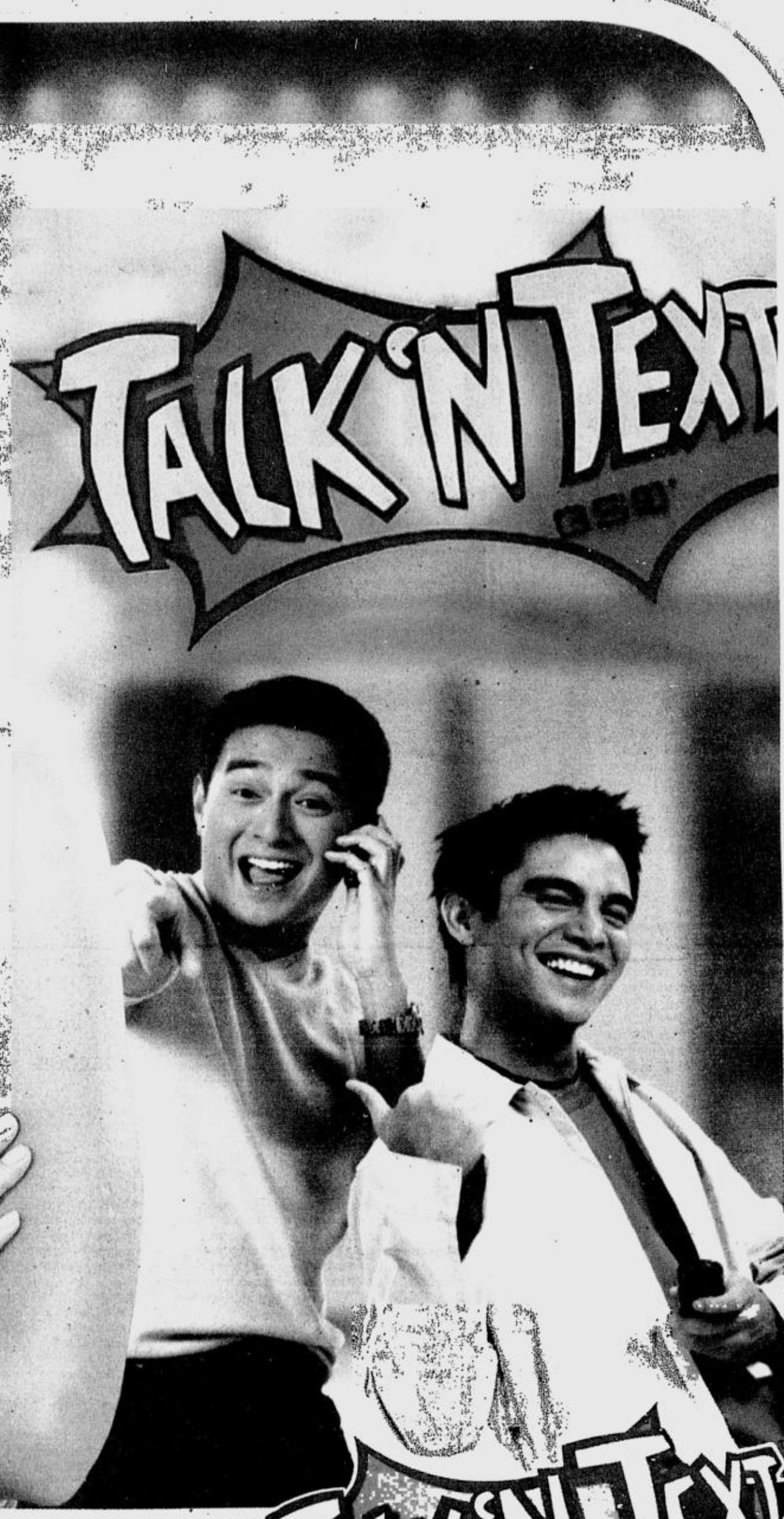




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# TRAVEL

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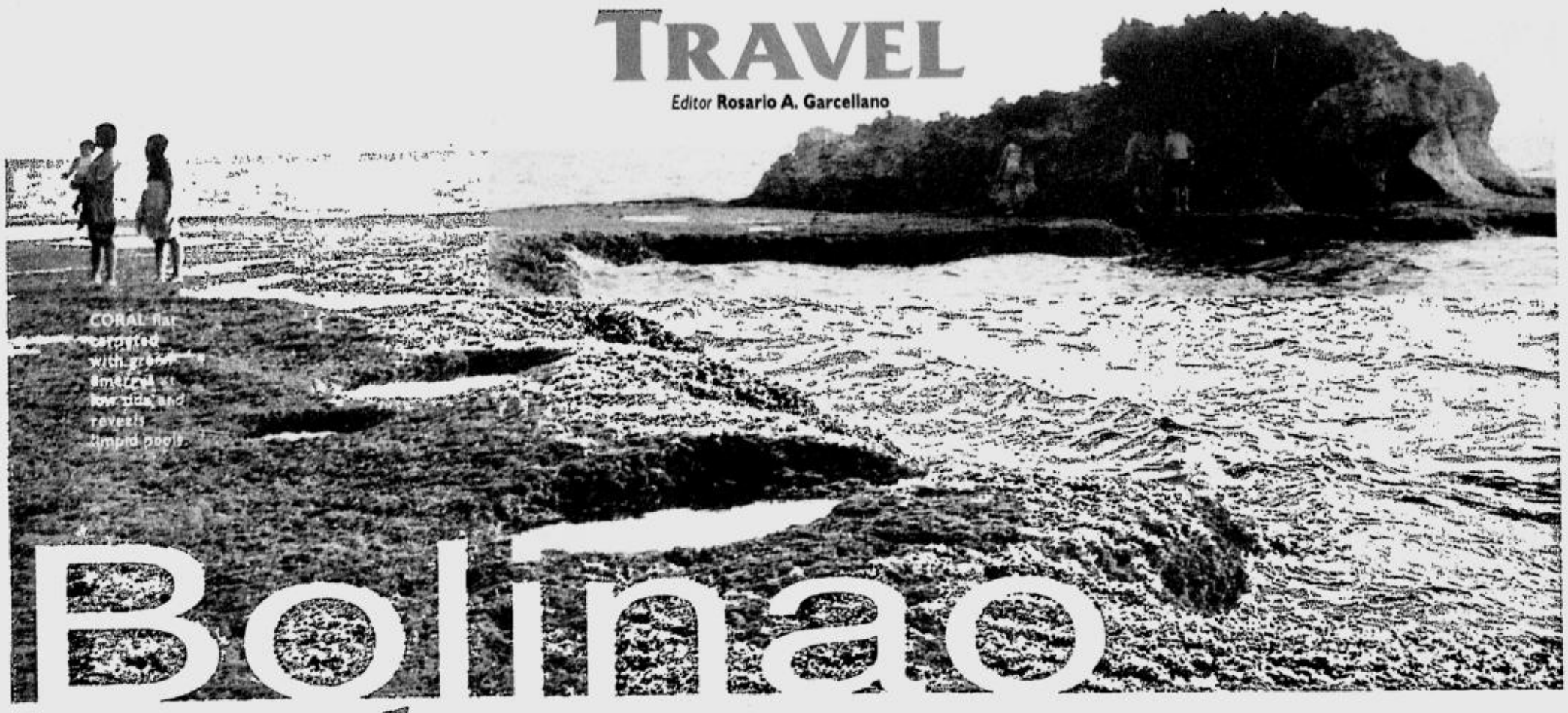
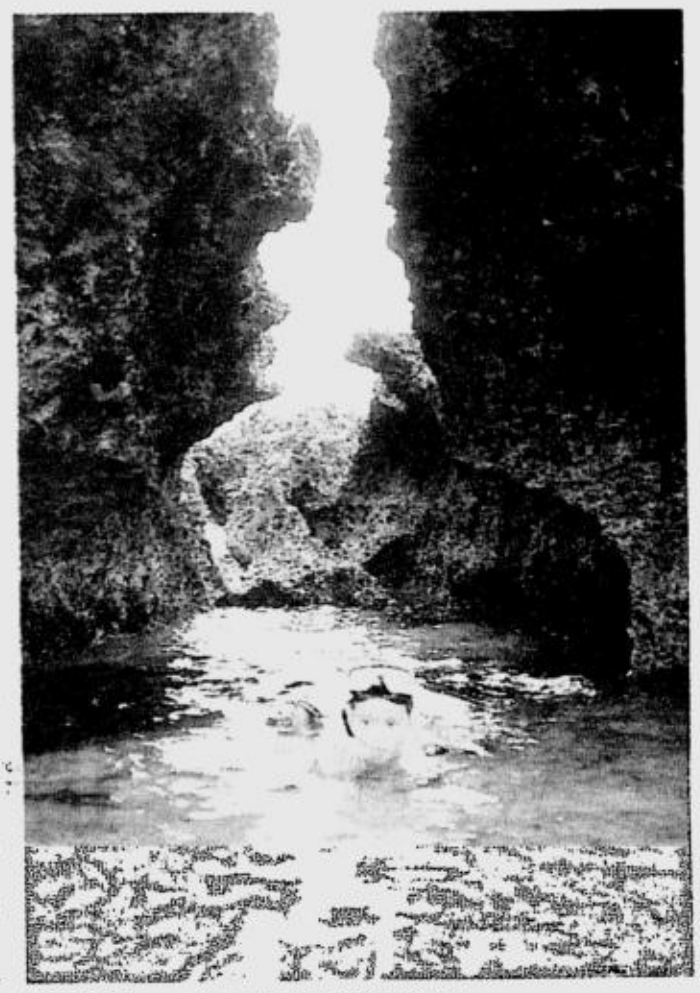



# Bolinao

## paradise enow

Jump into a tide pool and float in the stillness, feeling safe from giant waves and tasting the gray mist in your own blue lagoon



THERE'S leeway to snorkel in hidden caves.

Text and photos
by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHEN, at last, the sea pulls back, a new landscape is revealed, stunning even the most sea-soaked and sun-drenched beachcomber. Shimmering coves and spots emerge from their watery hiding places to regale the persistent seeker of silence and secret places.

Grass green is the color of this low-tide wonderland. The coral flat rises, as it were, to the surface and offers a soft, carpeted expanse for tired body and soul, here to frolic and fantasize. Here, to rest awhile and await the sun's glorious dying at eventide.

Bolinao's beaches are an open secret but there are other wonders here that come and go only with the tide.

The green coral flats that emerge at low tide present dozens of so-called tide pools so clear one can see the tiny fishes smiling. Soak yourself or snorkel in one little pool of your choice.

Or jump into a larger one for a quiet swim or to simply float in the stillness, feeling safe from the surge of giant waves, tasting only the gray mist and the blown spume that descend on your own blue lagoon.

GOODBYE, summer: pink boat against beige sand and blue sea.

This is the end of summer at its best.

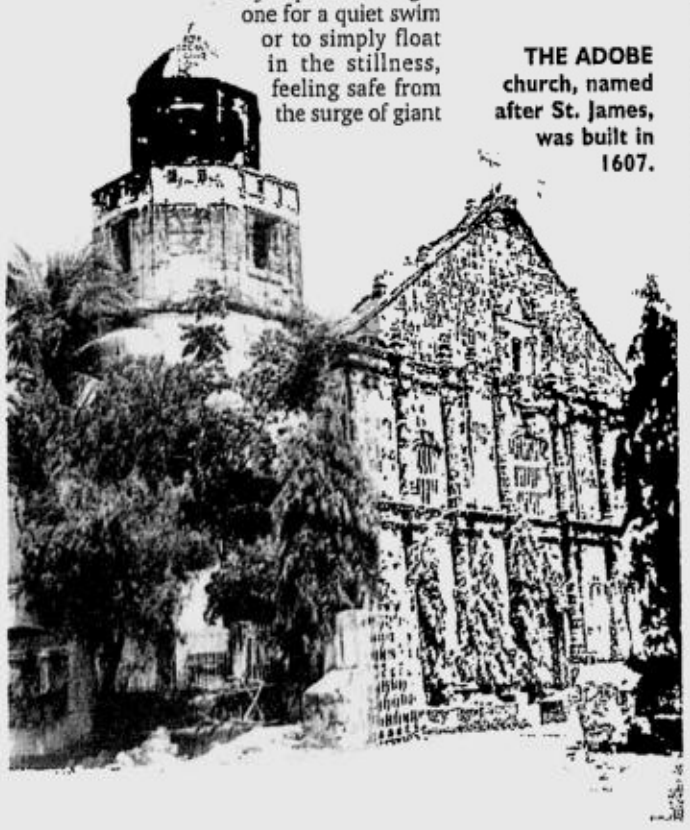
Barangay Patar is where most people go and where many resorts have sprouted. Here, on Punta Piedra Point, the Cape Bolinao lighthouse stands tall amidst the wild *sineguelas* and the "cure-all" *apatot (noni)* plant.

But Bolinao has many other little surprises to offer, a few of them discovered by peripatetic movie scouts and advertising whiz kids who would only settle for the bluest sea and the craggiest coral cliffs for their mermaids and their product models. The faint of heart or the lazy who would rather head for the familiar tourist-y places would not be disappointed with Bolinao. But one has to wear the heart of the native.

Bolinao is not only sun, sand and sea, and endless sky; it also has history and science, and, more recently, a brand of environmental activism that brought this cape town into the national and global limelight. A multibillion-peso giant cement plant backed off five years ago in the face of rising protests to save Bolinao's limestone deposits from foreign capitalists. (A proliferation of foreign-owned beach resorts took its place.)

Bolinao is home to the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute and laboratory, the repository of the town's treasure trove of knowledge on marine life. Satellite photographs show Bolinao's distinct features as a marine sanctuary. Archaeological excavations have produced 11th- and 12th-century artifacts that prove its eminence during pre-hispanic times. Many of these have remained in the town museum.

Bolinao's seven-kilometer-long Balingasay River is fast becoming an ecological destination. Last year it landed in the finalists' list for the Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran for Inland Bodies of Water.



THE ADOBE church, named after St. James, was built in 1607.

Going down Balingasay is like going into the heart of Bolinao. Here the salt of the sea and the freshness of the inland springs embrace to nurture special wildlife and delicious fish not commonly found elsewhere. The special Bolinao *bangus* fry are spawned here. *Nipa* palm groves, ferns and river trees—not man-made structures—line the banks of Balingasay. Once you get to the wilder, farther portion, it gets so very quiet you hear only the birds and the beating of your heart. The river leads to waterfalls that come alive when summer ends.

Founded in 1575 by a certain Capt. Pedro Lombri, Bolinao's early town community was composed mainly of settlers. The adobe church was erected in 1607 and named after St. James whose statue, it is said, miraculously frightened away the marauding pirates with the sound of the horse on which he rode.

Legends about how the town got its name are many. One tells about the union of two lovers named Bolido and Alinao.

The town also has its own language, which is linguistically distinct from what is spoken in the rest of Pangasinan.

Located at the northwestern tip of Pangasinan, Bolinao is 270 kilometers north of Manila. It can be reached via Camiling, Tarlac. Victory Liner and Five Star buses ply the route every day. It takes about five to six hours to get there.

Visitors can take home the best dried *barangen (dangit)*, which come very cheap. (The fish thrives well in Bolinao's marine ecosystem.) Or buy *buri* mats (a small double-weave for P30), cashew, and mangoes in season. There is also *binungay*, which is made of sticky rice and coconut milk cooked in virgin bamboo. Split and eat.

Bolinao recently suffered from a fish kill caused by fish pen owners who did not know the meaning of the word "enough." But that is another story. There are groups, like the Bolinao Marine Ecological Fund Foundation Inc., led by the indefatigable Margie Celeste, that are working hard not to let this happen again.

Bolinao, if you look closely, is paradise enow.

# TRAVEL BRIEFS

### Service excellence

THE PALMS Country Club has announced its commitment to service excellence by implementing a strong staff-involvement approach from Day One.

Rank and file, supervisors and managers were officially welcomed last June 17 to the club. The service team was taken to the various outlets and facilities and provided a running documentary by club managers. Team-building exercises served as the high point of the activity.

According to The Palms general manager Graham Kiy, the level of teamwork that the club will espouse transcends the traditional disciplines one finds in the hospitality industry. "We are committed to the members and their guests who expect consistency in service at every visit," Kiy said.

The Palms will officially open shortly. For inquiries, call 812-3542 or 818-1506 local 405.

### Internet check-in

SINGAPORE Airlines has launched a new Internet check-in service that allows its passengers to choose their seats ahead of time.

Log on to www.singaporeair.com from 48 hours up to two hours before flight departure and click on the link provided. After providing the flight information required, one will be able to view the real-time seat map of the flight, and select or even change seats online.

With the service, passengers can also check-in through to their final destination and even for return flights within 48 hours of their outbound flight. The service likewise allows customers to check-in for connecting flights run by other selected airlines. Groups of up to seven passengers under the same reservation can check-in together.

The service is available to KrisFlyer and PPS Club members, as well as customers who book their flights through the website on all SIA flights (Manila to Singapore and back included), with the exception of some flights to Asia and Europe.

### 'Punta-stic' promo

PUNTA Baluarte in Calatagan, Batangas, has brought back its "Punta-stic" promo offering overnight rates of P1,400 net for weekdays and P1,750 net for weekends.

The package, valid until Sept. 30, includes breakfast for two and an hour's use of the resort's sports and recreational facilities.

The resort boasts amenities ideal for garden weddings and team-building sessions (including facilities for audio-visual presentations, group dynamics, camping, obstacle course relays, etc.

For inquiries, call 899-4546/47.

### Net profits

MULTI-AWARDED carrier Asiana Airlines, South Korea's second largest airline, posted first-quarter net profits of almost $18 million (23.1 billion Korean won), marking an impressive recovery from 2001 losses brought by the Sept. 11 attacks.

Gross earnings for the first quarter almost tripled to 27.3 billion won, from 10.2 billion won for the same period last year. First-quarter sale rose by 11 percent to 570.7 billion won.

The company was forced last year to sell two aircraft and close unprofitable routes, as well as hold off expansion plans for a larger European route network. But it still managed to add to its list of awards the 2001 Passenger Service of the Year Award from industry observer Air Transport World.

Asiana has been consistently cited for its safety record and on-time reliability since its establishment in 1988.

The airline also experienced rising demand ahead of the World Cup soccer finals, which South Korea is co-hosting with Japan until June 30.

### Time-sharing

PAMANA Island Resort in Subic Bay is drawing both domestic and foreign tourists with its time-sharing investment scheme.

The resort has not only pool- and sea-view rooms and executive villas and suites but also complete facilities for conferences, seminars and strategy meetings.

For inquiries, call (632) 813-7894 or 817-0558 or e-mail pamanaisland@pacific.net.ph.

**GARLIC FESTIVAL**

What better way to promote an industry than holding a festival? Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, along with Trade Undersecretary Nellie Villafuerte, cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the recent opening of the Sinait Garlic Festival, one of a string of activities aimed at generating trade and tourism in the Ilocos region. Also in photo are Sinait Mayor Edgar Yabes, Vice Gov. Gerry Singson and Domestic Tourism Director Cynthia Lazo.

# Why overseas Filipino workers would rather stay in the desert

From page D1

workplace, Mely Arriola, labor attaché at the Philippine consulate in Dubai, cites unpaid salary and contract substitution as the most common. They had raised these complaints to four Philippine senators who visited Dubai recently.

One nurse said she was receiving a monthly salary of $780 although the contract she signed in Manila with the recruitment agency stipulated $900. One man signed for a $300-a-month job but received only $200.

Other problems such as maltreatment, physical abuse and rape by employers have already been controlled, says Ambassador Amable Aguiluz III.

### Successful OFWs

Some of the OFWs have made it big and chosen to settle in the place. Two schools in the city are owned by Filipinos. There are big-time entrepreneurs like the owner of a wedding boutique and the distributor of dried mango and Philippine-made cigarettes.

Filipino yuppies here are driving luxury vehicles and residing in four-bedroom villas, leased (foreigners cannot own house and lot in the UAE) at an equivalent of over P1 million a year. Among these are Eric Coreces, a banker with the Standard-Chartered, and his wife Marie, who works at the Berlitz Language Center, and their friends, like Pepsi executive Carol Castillo and her Greek husband Andreas Pieri.

Work, as anywhere in the world, can be drudgery, but these people won't go home as yet.

"They're more at home here," says Carella. "You can properly raise your kids here. Because in Manila there's just too much pollution, crimes, traffic. Here it's safe."

Aside from the safety of the place, Carella points to how neat and orderly everything is: "Look at the sidewalks! *Pinu*-floor wax *pa 'pag gabi 'yan*. Look at the flowers! Full-blown *palagi 'yan*. And this is desert, *ha*?"

Aside from the trees miraculously grown on desert sand, the government's extensive greening program has produced multifarious vivid-hued flowers perpetually abloom, nurtured by desalinated water through the drip method. Everything is neatly in place, and no litter or trash can be found on the pavement.

### Sedentary lifestyle

The Filipinos here are, in a way, pampered. A common complaint at home is: *"Ano—manok na naman ang ulam?"* Or else *hammur* (our *lapu-lapu*).

All their household needs, personal effects and groceries can be found relatively cheap at the souks, malls and huge supermarkets like Carrefour. They won't even get too homesick as news from home they can readily get from The Filipino Channel, CNN, the Internet (cybercafés charge Dh5 an hour, at P14 to a dirham). In short, everything is here.

Off days are Thursday for government employees and Friday (Day of Prayer) for the rest. After lunch, the malls, souks and other establishments are closed until about 4 p.m. This is a time for prayer for Muslims, and long, long siesta for the Pinoy.

Naturally, all this leads to a sedentary lifestyle, so that the most common ailments among OFWs are diabetes and heart diseases.

For entertainment and relaxation, they go to Rocky's Café at Regent Palace Hotel, where Philippine overseas labor officer Ferdinand Roxas took us one night.

It is actually a club with a billiards hall, managed by Jovy Neri and staffed mostly by Filipinos, featuring Filipino bands dishing out songs ranging from pop to rock, sentimental ballad to sexy dancing. Customers are mostly Filipinos, with a few curious foreigners.

We were surprised by the entertainers' sexy attire (showing thighs and cleavage on stage), until we remembered this was the most liberal of the Arab states.

### Expensive leisure

After a midnight stroll at Creekside Park, where the world-famous month-long Dubai Shopping Festival is held every March, Gulf News sub-editor Jay Hilotin drove us to Al Rigga Road, to people-watch at the outdoor cafés.

The more expensive leisure trips would involve going to the outskirts of the city. The UAE hosts some of the world's premier sporting events, including the world's richest horse race—the Dubai World Cup. (The money used to build the Emirates Towers was said to have been won by a sheik in a race. And we visited a camel farm where a prince's Dh2-million race camel was groomed.)

A new camping ground for the rich is Burj Al Arab (Arab Tower), said to be the only seven-star hotel in the world, with a Dh200 entrance fee. Built on land reclaimed from the sea, its architectural design shaped like the sail of a dhow, it boasts of gold-leaf detailing and an underwater restaurant.

There are 25 five-star hotels for those who can ill afford such luxury. And coming up in two years are Palm Island, Festival City, Snow World and Khalifa Park.

Or cross the Margham Desert to the resort town of Hatta and go on a desert safari, dune-bashing (our Land Cruiser was driven by a very able man from Zanzibar), camelback-riding, belly-dancing, wining and barbecuing. The whole experience goes for Dh650 per person at the Arabian Adventures Tours and Safaris.

The late Eric Catipon had the time of his life here dressing up in *condura* (the Arabic white flowing garment for male), *wizar* (underwear), *gutra* (head covering) and *okal* (two ring bands to hold down the *gutra*), and pretending to be a sheik while riding a camel.

### Excess of capital

Lest we forget, the OFWs are here not for R&R but for work.

Drudgery it may be, but it's very well compensated. Domestics, for instance, get an average of $200 a month, while waiters receive $300, not including tips.

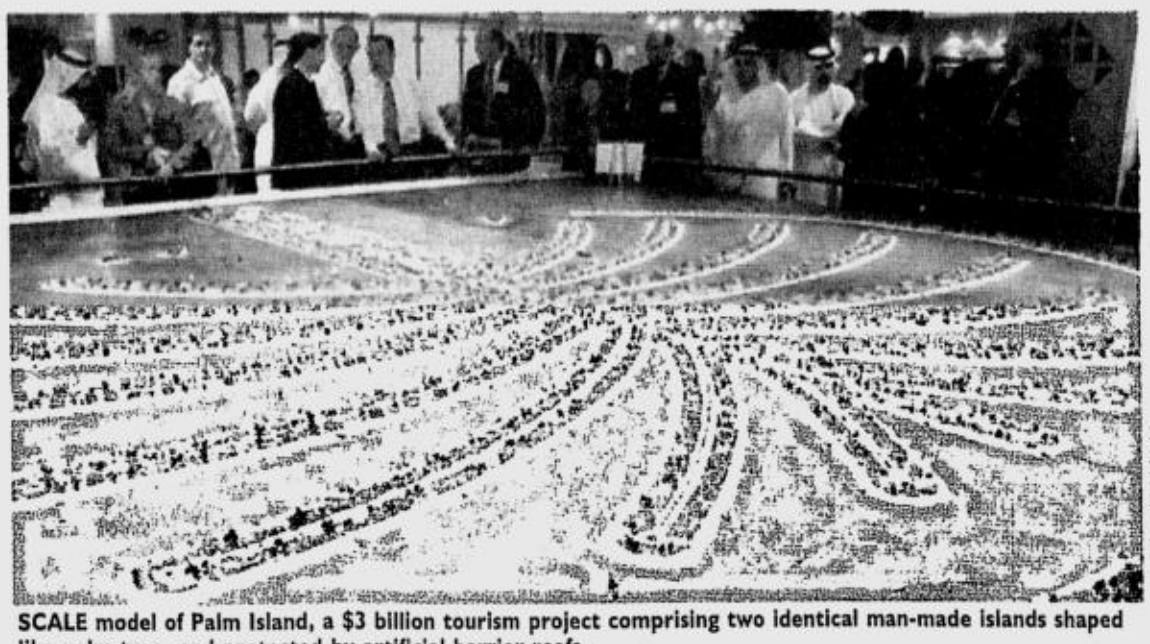
At Gulf News, the paper with the largest circulation (90,000) of the UAE's three English-language broadsheets (of glossy and book paper), a Filipino sub-editor who has been with it for less than a year is receiving the equivalent of P120,000 a month. A photographer who has been with it for three years gets P90,000 a month. Starting salary for a writer is P60,000.

"Because of excess of capital, here it's the bank that will pursue you just to lend you money," says Monette Ruiz, a reporter at Khaleej Times. "Car loan has only a 4.9-percent interest per annum. And personal loan has 10 percent, without collateral."

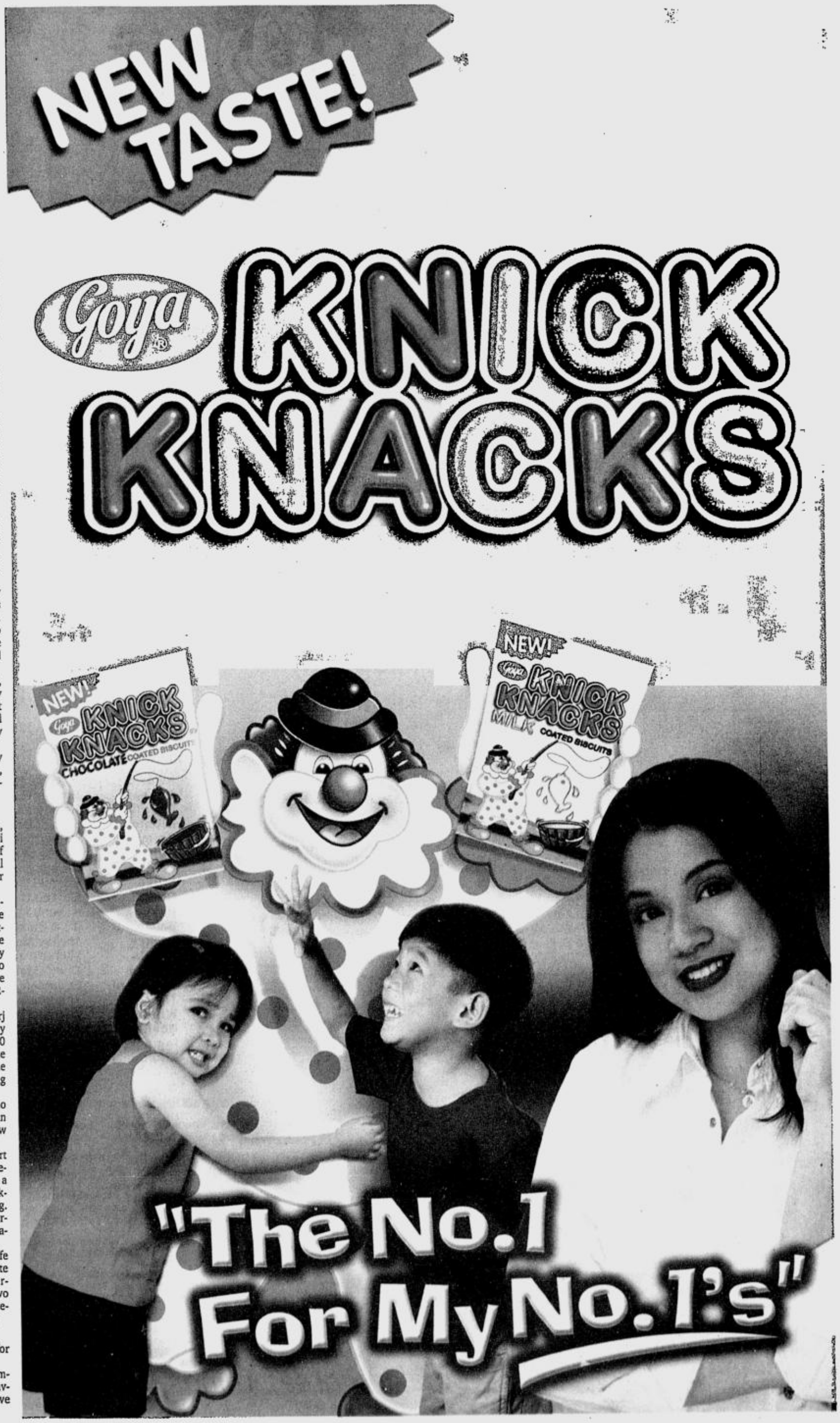
Though not exactly picked on the streets, money seems easy to come by. During last Good Friday and Easter in the Filipino community in Dubai, St. Mary's Catholic Church alone received a collection of P2 million.

"Tell your people not to expect that the streets here are paved with gold," Ministry of Information and Culture adviser Ibrahim Al Abed said at one time.

Yes, of course, it's mostly stored and displayed in the Gold Souk of Dubai, a sight that we cannot begin here to describe.



SCALE model of Palm Island, a $3 billion tourism project comprising two identical man-made islands shaped like palm trees and protected by artificial barrier reefs



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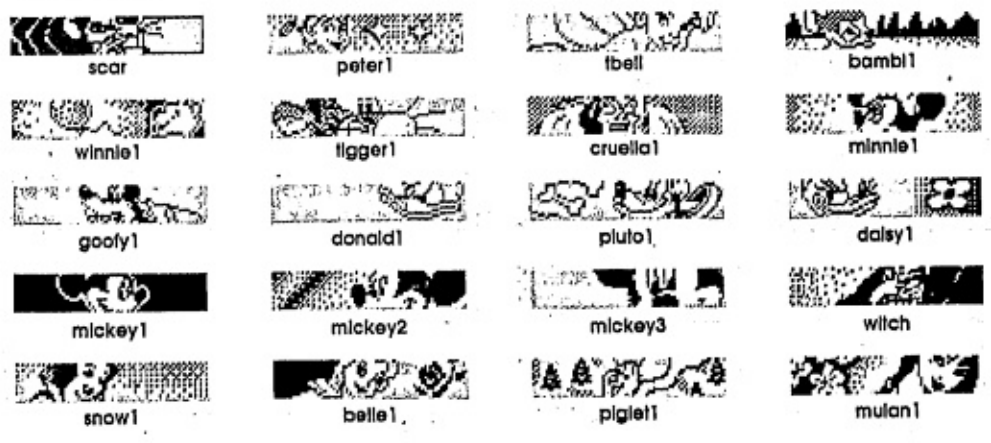


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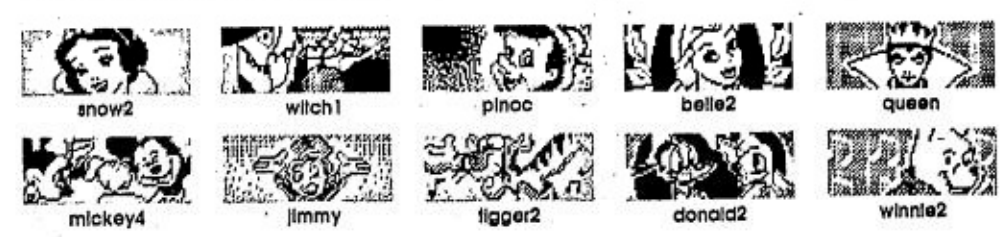


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| KEYWORD | TITLE |
|---|---|
| Nworld | A Whole New World |
| Bguest | Be Our Guest |
| Beauty | Beauty and the Beast |
| Bibbidi | Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo (The Magic Song) |
| Chim | Chim Chim Cher-ee |
| Colors | Colors of the Wind |
| Cruella | Cruella De Vil |
| Frilke | Friend Like Me |
| Godist | Go The Distance |
| Hakuna | Hakuna Matata |
| Smworld | It's a Small World |
| Mickey | Mickey Mouse March |
| Minnie | Minnie's Yoo Hoo |
| Adream | Once Upon a Dream |
| Supercali | Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious |
| Tigger | The Wonderful Thing about Tiggers |
| Winnie | Winnie the Pooh |
| Ucanfly | You Can Fly! You Can Fly! |
| Inmyhrt | You'll Be In My Heart |
| Zipadee | Zip-a-dee-doo-dah |

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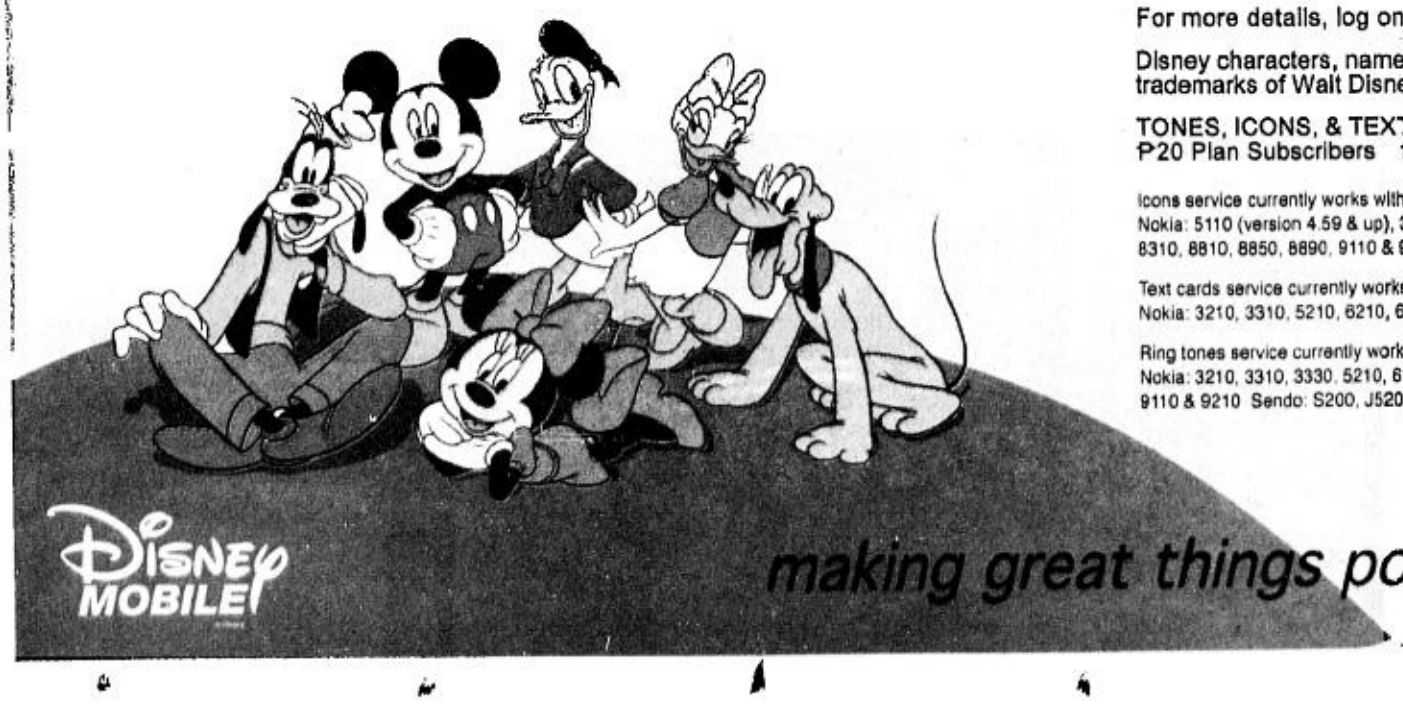


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# A karmic past, a golden present and a perfect future

**Text by Elizabeth Lolarga**
*Contributor*
**Photos by Ed, Manolet and Alexis Santiago**

WEEKS before the golden wedding anniversary celebration of retired corporate lawyer Marcelo Fernando, 73, and writer-publisher-theater producer Gilda Cordero, 72, their newly designated *ninang* (godmother), architect Ning Encarnacion Tan and the women of the Center for Holism and Creative Arts (Chacra) were practically talking to the clouds in their meditations, im-

A KARMIC/ p.E6

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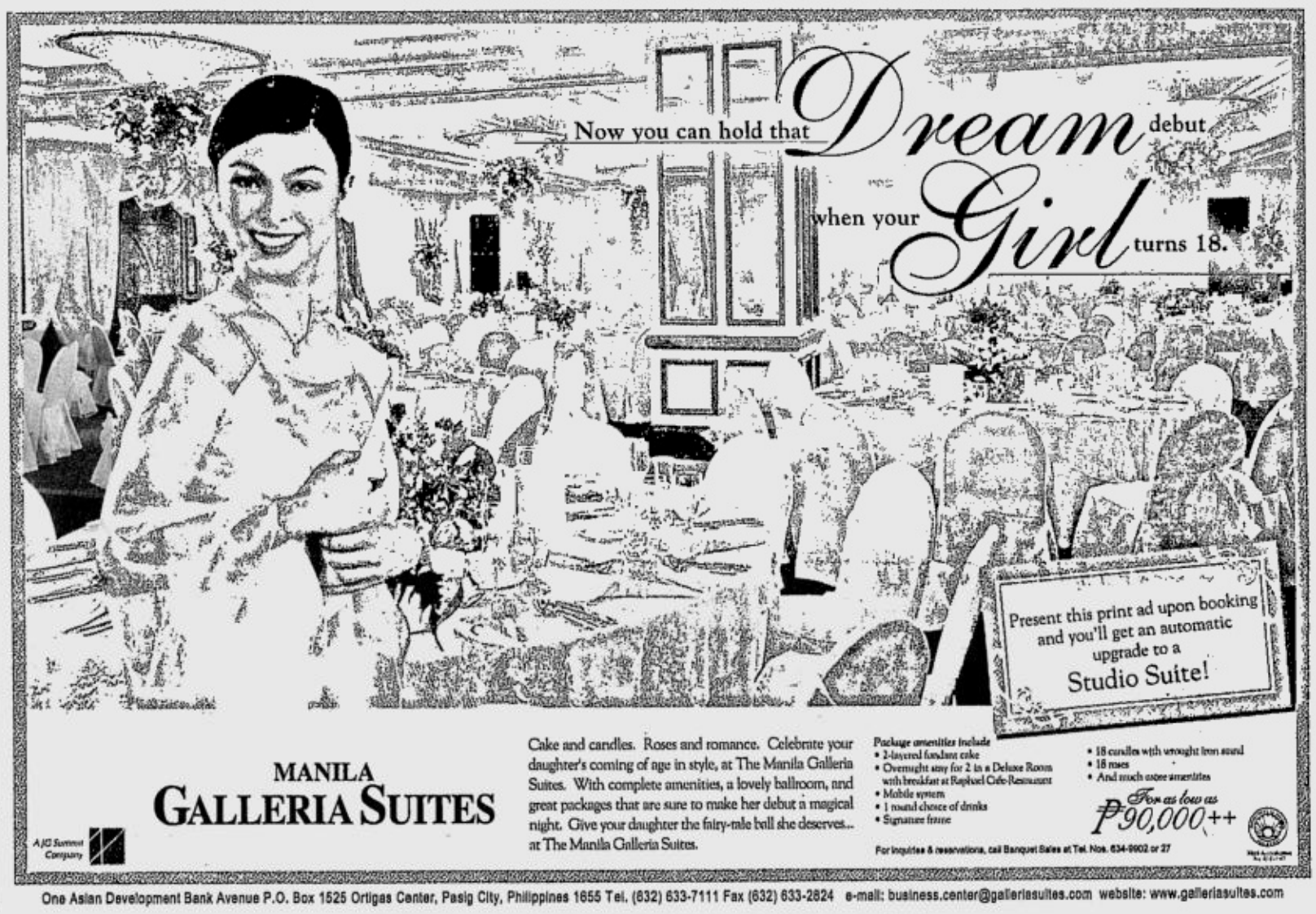

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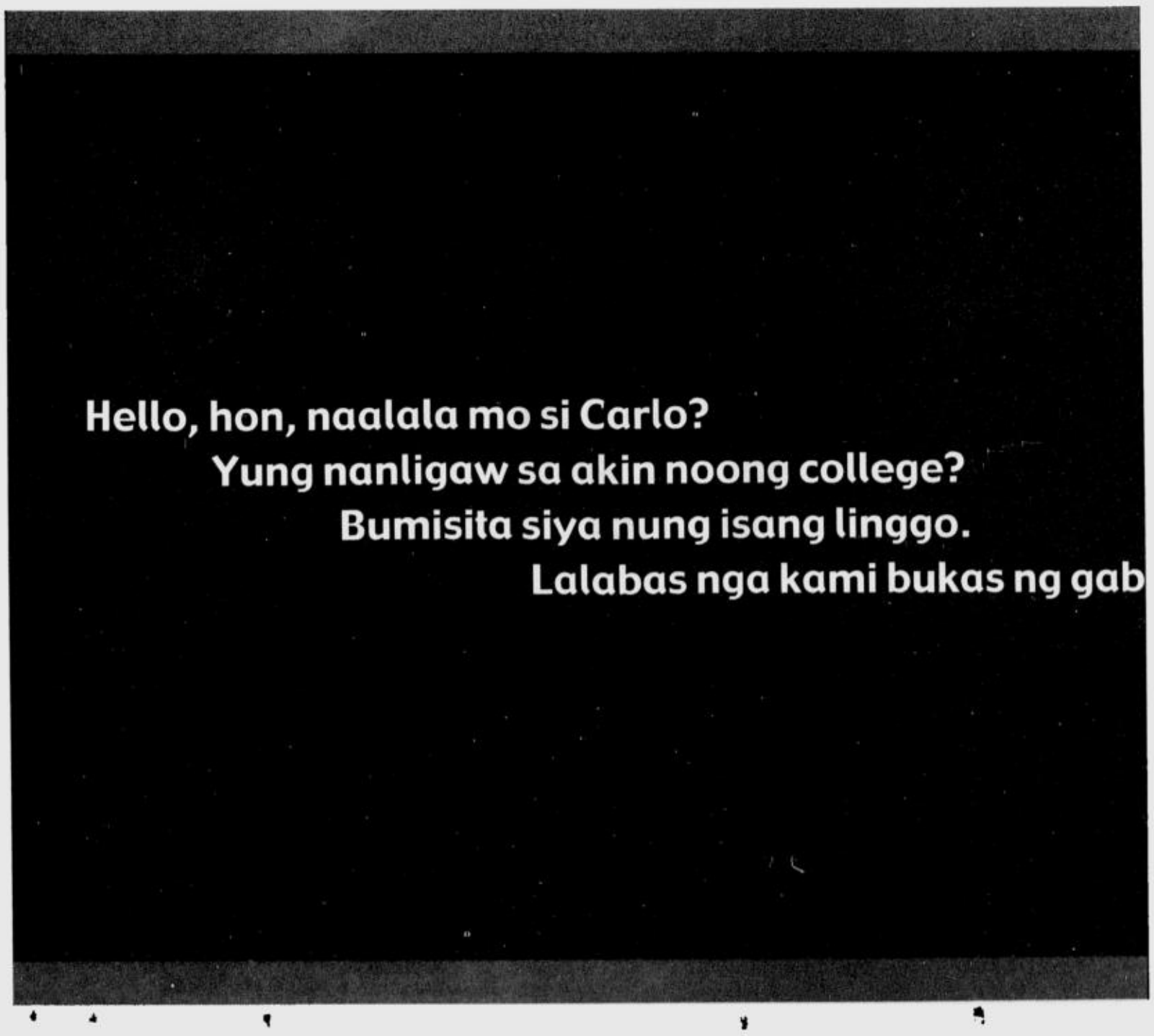


Bitin ba?
E kung dagdagan pa ng one minute ang usapan?
PLDT

OLIVARES-REYES

**Fredie Olivares**, son of **Amado** and **Remedios Olivares**, will wed **Sylvia Reyes**, daughter of **Jose** and **Felicisima Reyes**, on June 29 at the Our Lady of Annunciation Church, QC. Reception will follow at Britanny Neopolitan Clubhouse, North Fairview, QC.

The bride will wear a spaghetti-strapped gown in off-white shantung. The bodice is highlighted with transparent pearls, bugle beads and rhinestones in vines and leaf pattern. Its hemline is traced with lace and beadwork. The entourage will wear gowns in burgundy and silver motif, all by **June L. Gallon**.

BAÑOS-YU

**Juan Antonio Baños**, son of **Sandra Haydee Garcia vda. de Baños**, will wed **Cynthia Leabres Yu**, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Fe Esperanza Yu**, at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati, on June 27. Reception will follow at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La. **Patis Tesoro** created the gowns for the bride and her entourage. 1816 will provide the flowers.

CHAN HUAN-FENIX

**Annie Fenix**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Quedan Fenix**, wed **Joy Chan Huan**, son of Mr. and Ms **Mariano Chan**, on June 2 at the San Sebastian Church. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Midtown Hotel.

**Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown in ivory duchess satin. The square-necked bodice was beaded in a latticework pattern studded with faux pearls and rhinestones. Undulating lines of sequins and caviar beads adorned the skirt and cathedral train. The 10-yard-long veil of illusion tulle was held with floral-shaped Swarovski crystals.

## Milestones

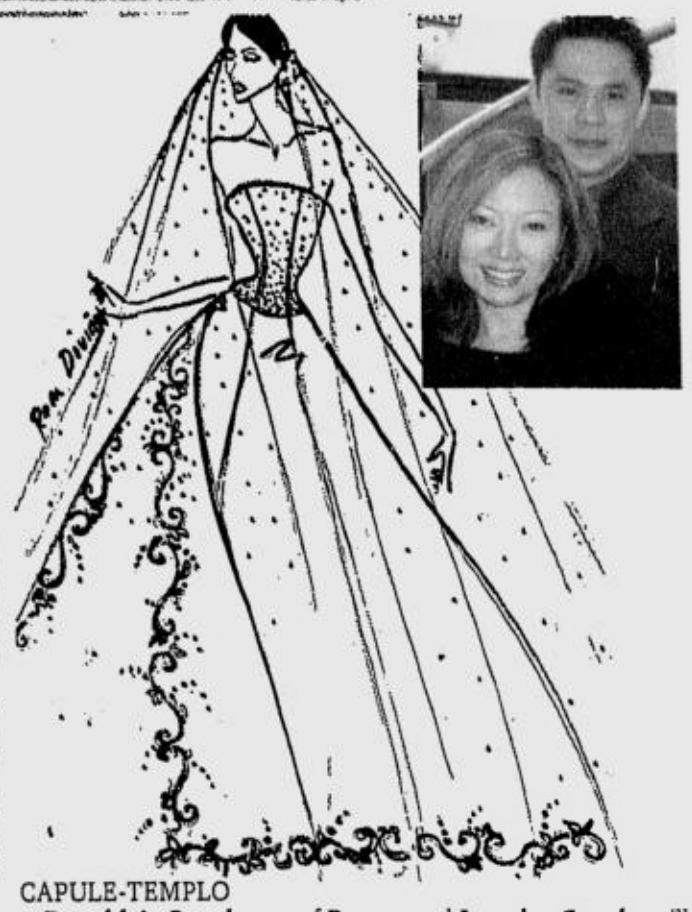
*We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

POSADAS-DOMINGO

**Anthony Posadas** and **Jovie Domingo** exchanged vows on May 18 at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Barasoain, Malolos, Bulacan. Anthony is the son of lawyer **Roberto** and **Paz Posadas** while Jovie is the daughter of **Dominador** and **Eladia Domingo**. Reception was held at the Barcie International Center, Catmon, Malolos.

ENRIQUEZ-LAXA

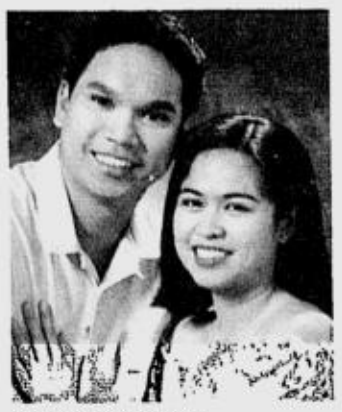
**Rowena Laxa**, daughter of **Victor** and **Maria Laxa**, will wed **Erwin Enriquez**, son of **Oscar** and **Erlinda Enriquez**, on June 30 at the Sasmuan Parish Church in Bancal, Guagua, Pampanga. Reception will be held at the Enriquez residence.





CAPULE-TEMPLO

**Ronald A. Capule**, son of **Romeo** and **Lourdes Capule**, will wed **Ching S. Templo**, daughter of **Celso** and **Cora Templo**, on June 28 at Iglesia Ni Cristo, Central, Diliman, QC. Reception will be held at Edsa Shangri-La's Garden Ballroom. The bride will wear a **Rem Divino** gown made of white duchess satin. The bodice is encrusted with Swarovski crystals.



PEREZ-DE MESA

**Christopher Perez** and **Ligaya de Mesa** will exchange marriage vows on July 13 at the St. Pancratius Chapel, Paco Park, Manila. Rev. Fr. **Armand Tangi** will officiate at the wedding Mass. Reception will follow at the Sampaguita Hall of Hyatt Regency Manila. **Edward Teng** created the bridal gown.

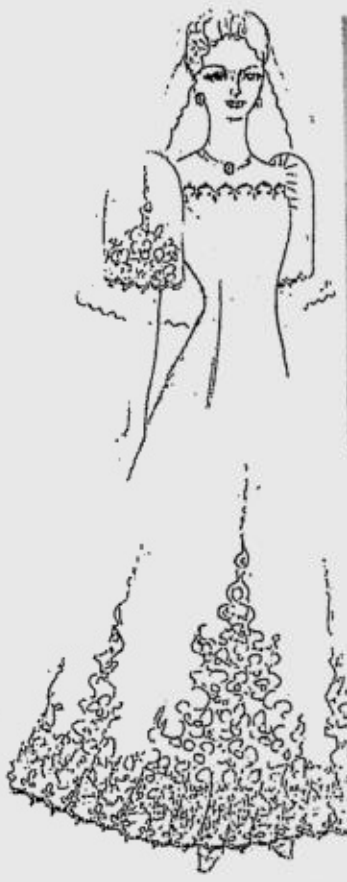
BAES-EMPLEO

Engineer **Rolando Baes**, son of **Dolores vda. de Baes**, will wed **Amy Sheila Empleo**, daughter of **Plebiscito** and **Clarita Empleo**, on June 29 at the Our Mother of Perpetual Help (Redemptorist) Church, Bajada, Davao City. Rev. Fr. **Sean Purcell** will officiate. Reception will follow at the JS Citimall Function Hall. **Edsel** of Wedding Bells created the bride's gown.

FERRER-SALDO

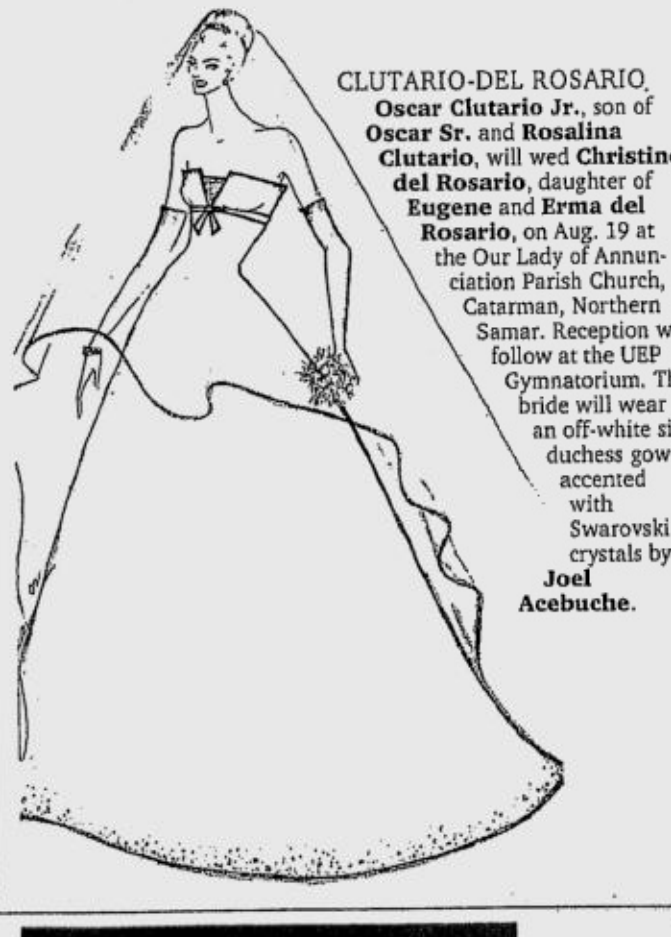
**Nancy C. Saldo**, daughter of (ret.) Lt. **Geronimo** and **Julie C. Saldo**, will exchange vows with **Johnny Ferrer**, son of **Dante** (deceased) and **Carmelita Ferrer**, on June 28, at the Our Lady of Remedies Parish (Malate Catholic) Church. Reception will be held at the Old Swiss Inn Manila, The Garden Plaza Hotel.

The bride will wear an off white princess-cut gown with rhinestones and a tiara. The entourage will wear gowns in light blue and old rose motifs designed by **Virgo Villa**.



RESURRECCION GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Lawyer **Diomedes T. Resurreccion** and **Sophia Requiro Abitang Resurreccion** of Aklan will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 20 at the St. Joseph Parish Church. Reception will be held at the Aklan State University's Cafeteria Banga. **Abner J. Carpio** designed the bridal gown.



CLUTARIO-DEL ROSARIO

**Oscar Clutario Jr.**, son of **Oscar Sr.** and **Rosalina Clutario**, will wed **Christine del Rosario**, daughter of **Eugene** and **Erma del Rosario**, on Aug. 19 at the Our Lady of Annunciation Parish Church, Catarman, Northern Samar. Reception will follow at the UEP Gymnatorium. The bride will wear an off-white silk duchess gown accented with Swarovski crystals by **Joel Acebuche**.

BARNET-ZAMUCO

**Donald W. Barnet** exchanged marriage vows with **Adarlie Rasgo Zamuco**, daughter of **Carmelo** and **Rosalina Zamuco**, on June 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Reception was held at the Sheraton Hotel.

# Quezonians present muse for 2002

RACHELLE T. Clemente, the Quezonians 1923 Muse for the year 2002, was presented at the induction of the club's officers at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Pasig City.

Clemente is a behavioral science senior at De la Salle University. She is the second daughter of Salvador "Benny" T. Clemente, president of Belco Marketing Inc. and the former Ophelia Lovina Ticzon. Her father, the son of former Mauban Mayor Amado T. Clemente Sr., is the new president of the Quezonians 1923.

Also inducted into office were lady president Elvira "Bim" Castillo, executive vice presidents Rholand Z. Roxas and Mary Lyn L. Domondon, secretaries Linda P. Diamante and Portia T. Santos, treasurer Grace S. Alcaneses, and press relations officers Baby O'Brien and Moises A. Hilahan Jr.

The new set of officers of the Young Quezonians were also inducted. Royce Cabunag and Chinkee Clemente handed over the gavel to 2002 Young Quezonians presidents Richard Garcia and Katrina I. Avanceña; Rainier Cabunag and Pogs Castillo, internal and external vice presidents; Gabby Avanceña, secretary; Suzanne T. Clemente, treasurer; Michelle Navarro, PRO.

Napoleon G. Rama, publisher of the Manila Bulletin, was inducting officer.

The muse was escorted by Carmelo J. Dayrit, son of Celso Dayrit of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Among those who attended the event were immediate past president Leandro Garcia and wife Mila; Rudy and Nora Robles; Harison Plaza's Antonio V. Martel, Jr. with wife Belen T. Martel, chair of Belco Marketing, and daughter Toni; United States embassy's Don Sanders with wife Norma; Robby and Melisa Martel with son Paolo; Nonoy Miravalles; Rep. Raffy Nantes; Don Ado Escudero; Ireneo Galicia, chief legal officer of BFAD; Sonny Melicor, assistant general manager of PPA; Ed Escueta, former chair of the Philippine Coconut Authority; Doctors Renato and Linda Reyes with daughter Linda Marie, immediate past muse of the Quezonians 1923.

A square-dance number choreographed by Andy and Wing Benigno highlighted the event. Roger and Glady Cabuña won a trip to Hong Kong for wearing the best costume.

Lady Valerie and her orchestra played dance music throughout the evening.

**RACHELLE T. Clemente, Quezonians 1923 muse for 2002, with escort Carmelo J. Dayrit**

# Healing a blind girl born without pupils is one of St. Padre Pio's miracles

PURELY PERSONAL

*Josephine Darang*

ONE miraculous healing interceded by newly canonized saint Padre Pio was the healing of a blind girl born without pupils. How Gemma di Giorgi could see without pupils puzzled doctors at that time in 1947 when the grandmother brought the little girl to San Dioganni Rotondo from Sicily and asked Padre Pio to heal her.

The story reveals that the holy priest made the Sign of the Cross on the eyelids of the girl after she went to confession and received her first communion. I found this story in the book "Padre Pio of Pietrelcina" in a chapter written by Fr. Armand Dasseville, OFM Capuchin.

This healing was one of the testimonies of miracles that propelled Blessed Padre Pio to sainthood. At least 300,000 people packed into St. Peter's Square and streets near the Vatican to hear Pope John Paul II declare in Latin, "We inscribe in the rule of saints and we declare in the entire Church that he be honored with devotion among the saints."

### Celebration in Manila

While Padre Pio was being canonized in Rome, St. Francis Church on Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong held a concelebrated High Mass presided by Bishop Soc Villegas at 3 p.m. The church has the St. Padre Pio Center under the care of Fr. Serge Arenga, who was in Rome for the canonization.

In the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes on Kanlaon St., Quezon City, Fr. Troy de los Santos, OFM Capuchin celebrated Mass at 5 p.m. and blessed the two-feet statue of St. Padre Pio standing on the right side of the altar. Those who wish to pray to Padre Pio can go to this church.

At the Manila Seedling Bank Worship Hall, the Spirit of Love Catholic Community will hold a healing Mass on July 1 at 7 p.m., in honor of Padre Pio. A big painting of the saint by Filipino artist Abe Lucas graces one wall. A glove of Padre Pio is venerated for healing after communion.

Chito Bertol, who manages Manila Seedling Bank, promised Padre Pio, who saved his leg from being amputated in 1997 due to diabetes neuropathy, that he would build him a chapel. Thus, the worship hall was built through the help of the saint himself.

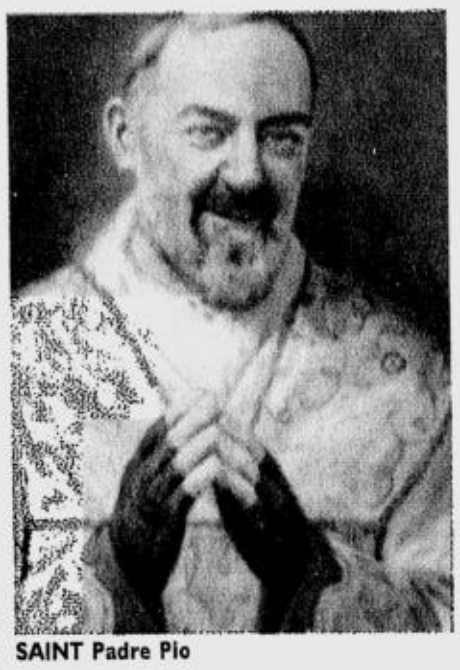
Chito propagates the devotion by distributing estampitas. Those who wish to have one can write me. Kindly enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for easier mailing.

### Other devotees in Manila

The person who told Chito Bertol about Padre Pio was Ramon Rodriguez, who went to San Giovanni Rotondo in 1995 to seek cure for his failing eyesight. He was cured.

I was surprised to find Menchie Anckermann wearing a medal of Padre Pio. I found out that she has pictures of Padre Pio in her house. When I visited Fr. Oliver Genuino in Sto. Nino de Molino Parish in Bacoor, I found one wall with framed photos of the saint. Apparently, Fr. Ollie already visited San Giovanni Rotondo several years ago.

And, of course, Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas has been a devotee ever since and she even put up the Padre Pio Healing Foundation. She went to Rome two weeks before the canonization.



SAINT Padre Pio

### Filipino priests in Rome

Fr. Randy Marquez of the Oblates of St. Joseph and his fellow priests attended the Triduum Mass for Padre Pio on June 15 at the Basilica de Santa Maria Maggiore. He told me via text that it was a wonderful, solemn celebration. The whole church was packed with people.

### Prayer for conversion

In his lifetime, Padre Pio caused the conversion of many people who went to him for confession. If you wish someone to be converted and to go back to the Lord, pray to Padre Pio for help.

This 21st-century saint teaches us to be holy, to love God with our whole hearts. The time is short. We cannot take God for granted anymore. We cannot bring with us fame and fortune. There is still time to change if you heed the call.

### 11 Franciscan saints

Eleven Franciscan saints were borne in carrozas during the procession honoring St. Anthony de Padua during his feast day on June 13 at the St. Anthony Shrine in Bustillos, Sampaloc. The images were lent by Ms Evangeline Orozco, who owns the St. Francis of Assisi Institute.

Fr. Willy Benito, rector of the shrine, is asking devotees to help in the reconstruction of the church. Please write him at St. Anthony Shrine, Bustillos, Sampaloc.

### Pinyasan fest in Daet

The town of Daet, Camarines Norte in Bicol region is holding the Grand Pinyasan Festival from June 15 to 24.

The festival's highlight is a street dancing parade on June 23, showcasing performers in pineapple-inspired costumes. The parade will also include contingents from other Bicol provinces, who will render traditional dances such as the "Pantomina" of Sorsogon, the "Tinagba" of Iriga City and the "Ibalong" of Legazpi City.

Various sports and cultural events and celebrity appearances are lined up to spice up the weeklong fest, which culminates on June 24 with the Feast of St. John the Baptist, the town's patron saint. A thanksgiving Mass officiated by Bishop Benjamin Almoneda of the Diocese of Daet will be held at 8 a.m. on the feast day at the newly-renovated Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.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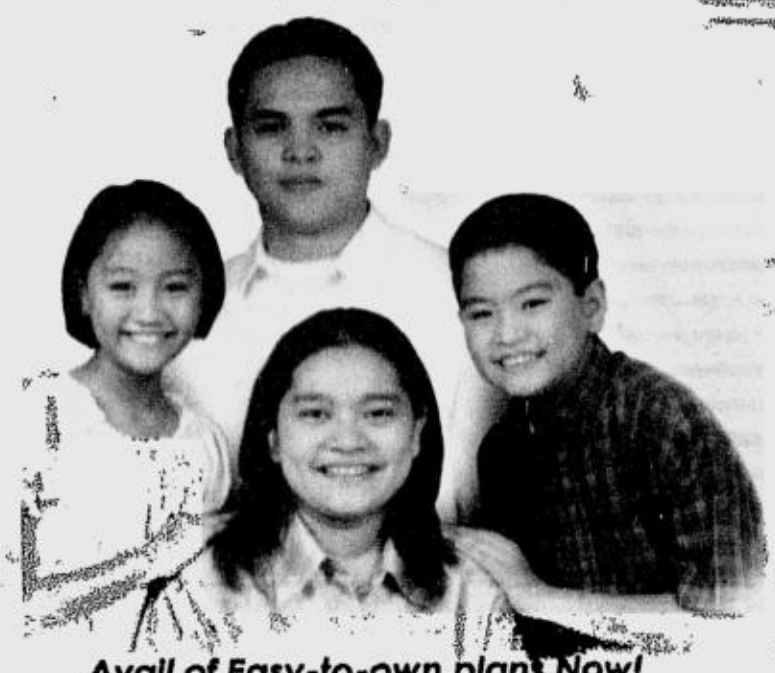

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# Women designers set no boundaries in bridal fashion

From page E8

dancing in our head as the bride in black sashayed in front of us. The serpentine cut jet black wedding gown was made of pure silk, featuring gunmetal floral and leaf hand beading that cascaded down the front, and a long embroidered veil. Ramos-Diaz, on the other hand, had the audience in awe when her pretty and petite bride gracefully walked in an off-white gown with a closed neck and extended sleeves. The wedding gown was made of stretch tulle with mosaic of assorted lace details with appliqué and beadwork. The gown's cut reminded us somehow of wedding gowns back in the 1920s era.

### Sight to behold

Television host Angel Jacob gave justice to Guiao's beautiful white strapless wedding gown with a criss-cross low-back top. Belted and cut on the waist, it had a flowing skirt with extended train made of embroidered tulle and beaded with crystals, pearls and caviar beads. The train was a sight to behold, gracefully following Jacob's every movement through the crowd that evening.

Guiao's collection was followed by the equally elegant designs of Sibal. The gowns in duchesse satin were very simple but fabulously elegant. One gown had chantilly lace detail and back pleating while another had front and back pleating with belt. The beauty in Sibal's creations lay in the simple elegance and in the timeless and classic lines that the designer is known for.

Calica-Sotto's beautiful bride's gown had French lace bust detail with pearl and cut glass beadwork on her decollétage. The gown's skirt was made of *piña* with puddle train, highlighted by a 1940s-inspired veil in *kadenata* embroidery and antique tea-dyed color. Calica-Sotto's bride wore teardrop earrings in turquoise that added to the charm of the lovely gown.

Urquico is relatively new in the bridal gown design business but she has had years of experience designing clothes for chic, career women who come to her Shangri-La mall shop. Her bridal gowns that evening were sexy and simple. Her white haltered floral chiffon jersey bias-cut stretch gown fit oh-so snugly on her bride. Another gown caught the attention of the crowd that evening—a champagne kimono-style gown with bronze obi encrusted with turquoise and citrine Swarovski crystals. The gown had a strong Japanese influence which, Urquico said, was the current trend.

Capping the show were the gowns created by the Veloso mother-and-daughter team whose creations were modeled by family members Vicky Veloso-Barrera and husband Roberto. The gowns, in true and typical Veloso fashion, brought visions of sugar and spice, white lace and promises.

All brides, they say, are beautiful but the gowns showcased that evening would make any young woman more radiant on the most important day of her life.

*E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer. com.ph*

VISION in black by Delby Bragais

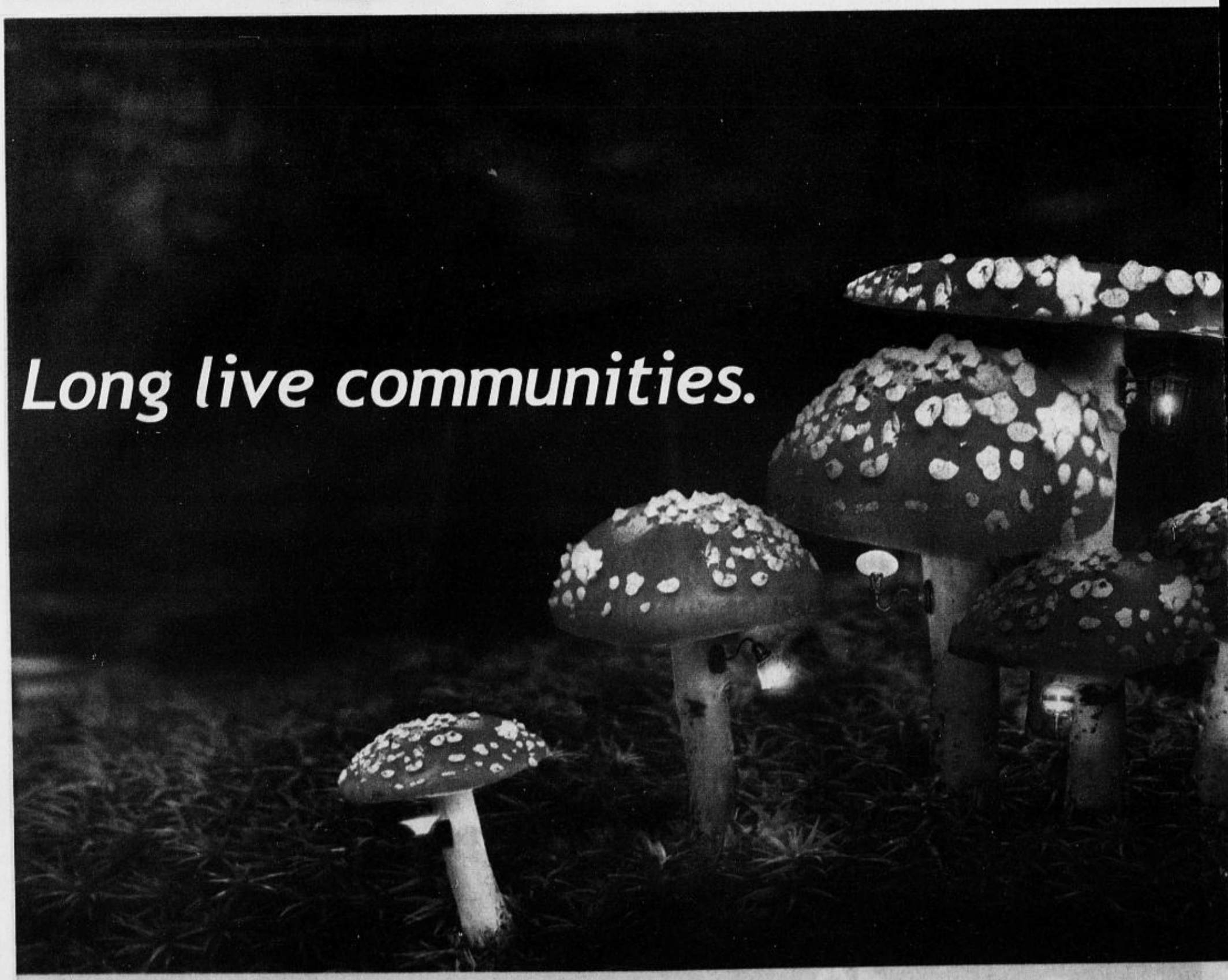
MICHI Calica-Sotto's 1940s-inspired gown

SIMPLY SEXY. Urquico's chiffon jersey gown

MIA Urquico

PATRICE Ramos-Diaz

LEN Nepomuceno Guiao

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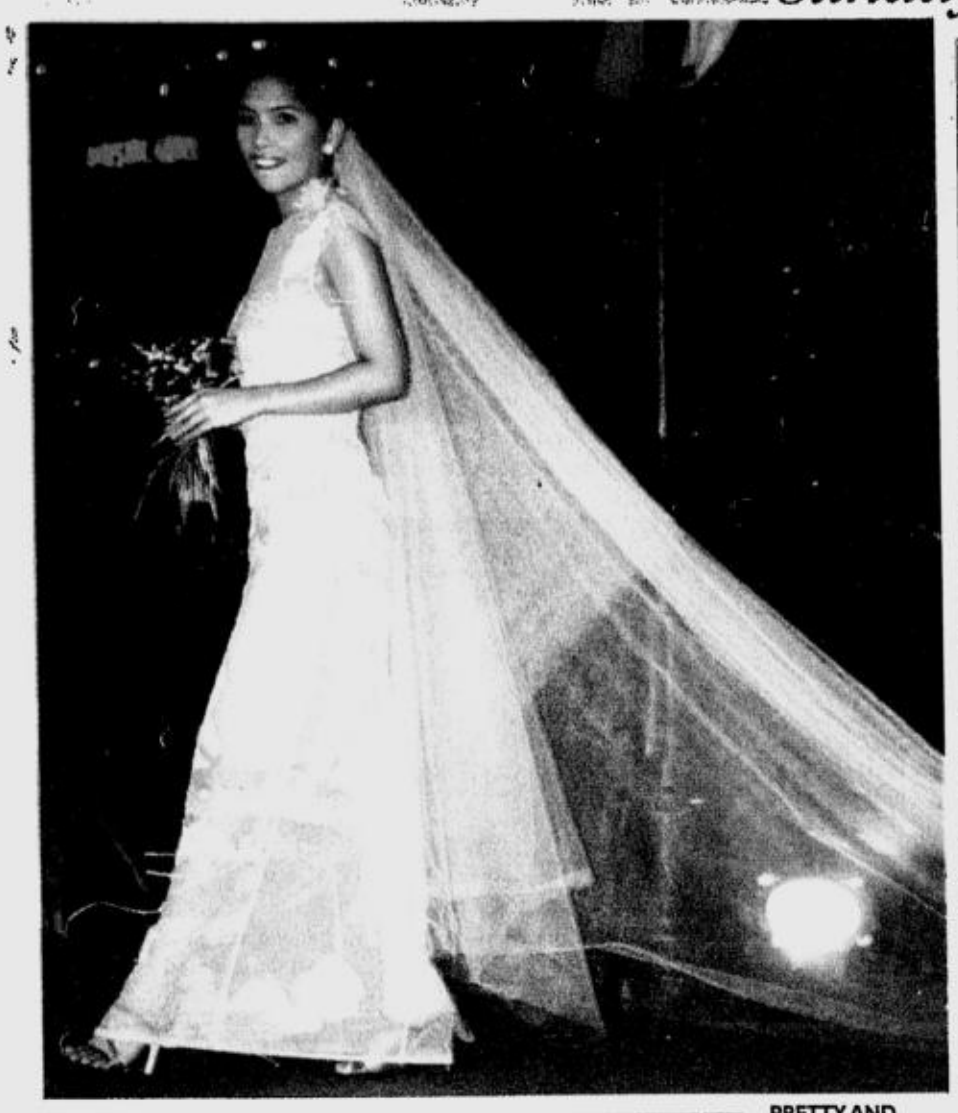

PRETTY AND PETITE. Ramos-Diaz creation with assorted lace details

WE ARE FAMILY. Malu Veloso with Roberto and Vicky Barrera


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10:00 am Bridal Exhibit Opens Free Admission
4:30 pm Opening Ceremonies
7:00 pm "Traje" FDAP's Bridal Dinner-Fashion Show P 850. Ticket Prize

**Sunday, June 30**
10:00 am Bridal Exhibit Free Admission
3:00 pm Bridal Talks

**Monday, July 1**
10:00 am Bridal Exhibit Free Admission
3:00 p.m. Bridal Make-up Competition

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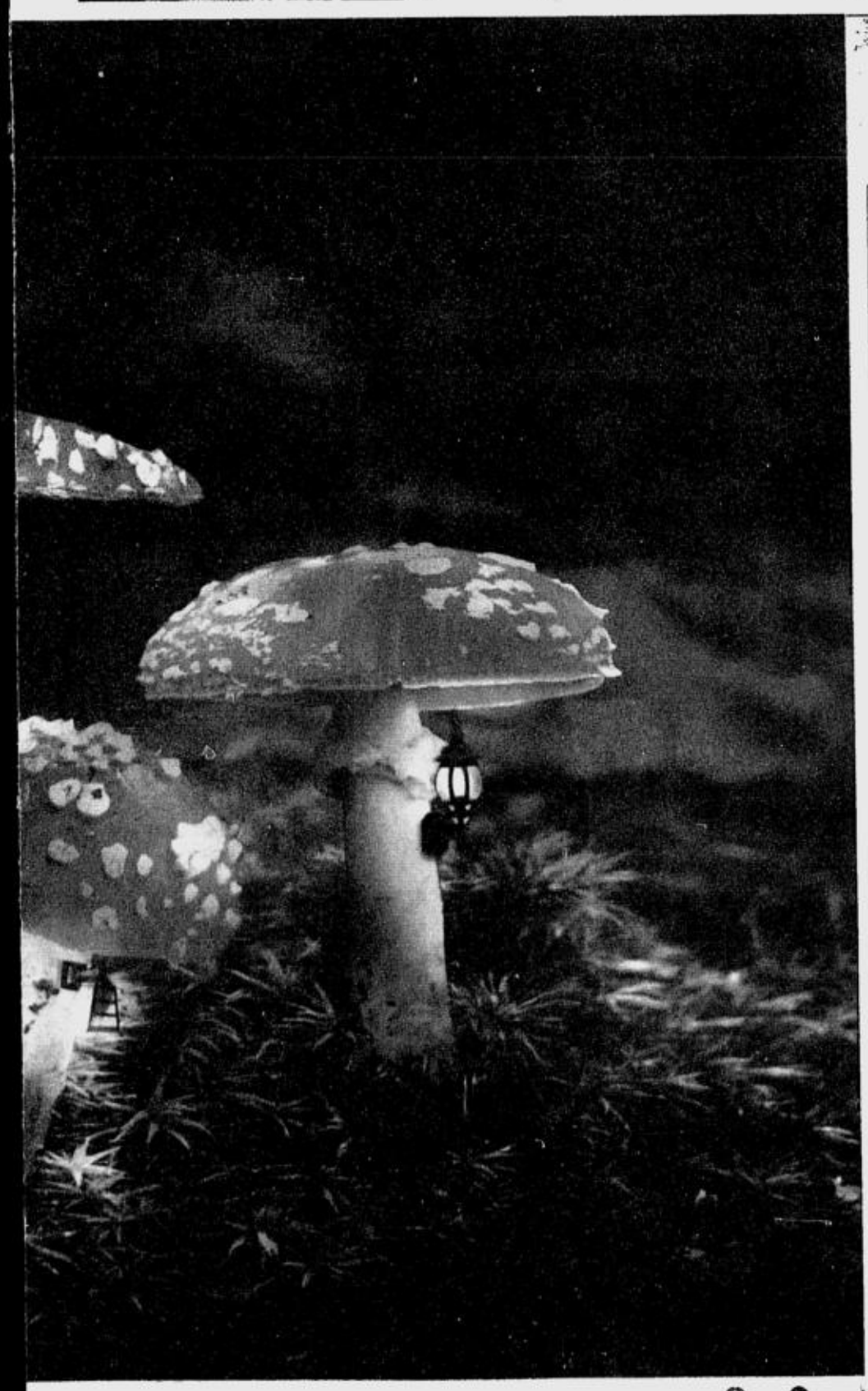
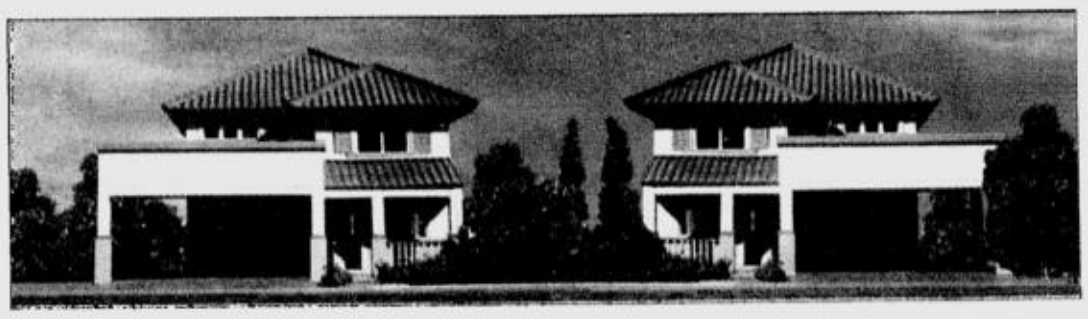



Verdana Homes



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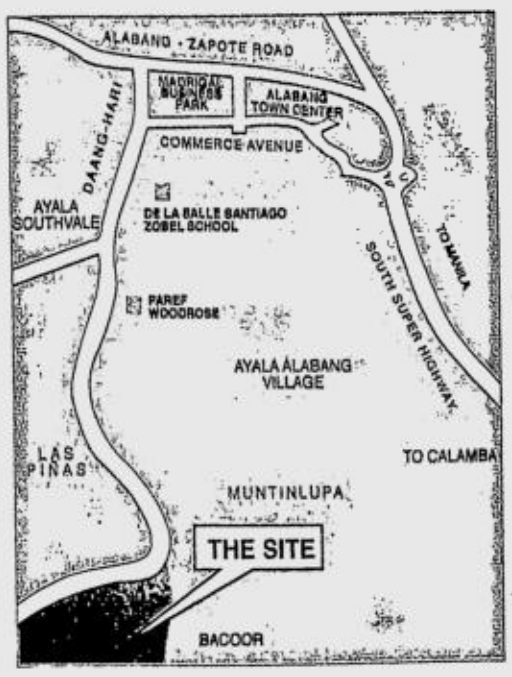


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JESUIT Jose de Leon in gold vestmments made by Jeannie Javelosa officiates ceremony wherein Gilda and Marcelo pledge they will still be there for each other "even when we have to say our goodbyes."

MARCELO and Gilda with copper sun and moon symbols behind them

VIRGILIO Alamario, Sonny Yniguez, Bencab, Dez Bautista, Michaela Fenix; (seated) Mae Paner and Joy Anonas

# A karmic past, a golden present and a perfect future

From page E1

ploring them to cooperate on June 12.

And so on that day, on the dry grounds and among the lush trees of Crescent Moon Café in Antipolo City, amid the splash of a waterfall and while fat, healthy carps lazily swam in two huge ponds, the Fernando entourage, resplendent in their Steve de Leon ensembles, marched down the curving driveway to Jesse Lucas' arrangement of "The March of the Siamese Children" from the Rodgers-Hammerstein musical "The King and I" and the folk ditty "Bahay Kubo."

Only production director Manny Chaves could have thought of such a musical combination that had the guests striking their bamboo clappers to the beat.

A little Gilda-inspired detail: Scapulars were worn around the necks of daughter Wendy, daughters-in-law Lanelle, Bing Bing and Lilli-Ann, and granddaughters Majalya and Chin-chin. Lace and ribbons framed the antique photograph of the bride's mother, Consuelo Luna Cordero.

### Leaving them breathless

But what took some of the people's breaths away was Marcelo's resoundingly clear and heartfelt renewal of his vows, capping them with the declarative "I cannot imagine being married to anybody else."

Gilda responded with gratitude, revealing how her wild creativity was made possible by her "Rock of Ages that I can lean on in any weather. There are so many things I can't do and you always just do them for me. That generosity had freed me to pursue all those dreams that have given me my direction in life."

Later, she ticked off for us the things she cannot do that he does anyway, among them "the earning of the money, the executive housekeeping, which includes knowing what the cook should do since he is the gourmet with the *panlasa* (taste). He gave us three good cooks—our sons Bey, Mol and Arcus."

Her role has been to set the cultural and artistic aspects of their lives, probably even the moral. "If our children turned out very fine, it was because I had 50 percent of the contribution," she added. Marcelo also called her the "sunshine to my gloom [who gave] the square mile I needed for space."

GILDA kisses Marcelo, her husband of 50 years.

Married 50 years ago on July 4, they moved their anniversary date to June 12 when President Macapagal moved Independence Day from July 4 to June 12; that's so very Gilda

### Groom takes spotlight

There was no pall of gloom on his face that afternoon, however. For once, as somebody said, he was beaming. His wife admitted that it was really his show—he chose Gaita Fores of Cibo, possibly the finest caterer in town. He fully stocked the bar and ensured that the wine was flowing and the chauffeurs outside would have a full dinner. It was he who altered the "script," moving the march to 4:30 p.m. instead of 5:30, texting his children to gather beside the pool when he saw a sizeable number of guests waiting.

The photographers loved shooting by natural light at that hour. But it was too early for lighting designer Shoko Matsumoto's carefully rigged-up magic, including roseate and golden ring figures that were supposed to dance on the water, and the ethereal blue supposed to bathe singer Celeste Legaspi as she belted out "Irog Ko, Ilog Ko" (Rolando Tinio's translation of Michel Legrand's "Summer Me, Winter Me") and "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?," to cast its spell.

Another *ninang*, artist Ann Wizer, assured Gilda, "Shoko will get over it."

By now the Fernandos had it down pat. After all, it was the third time they were wed. The first was a secret wedding on July 4, 1952, officiated by a Capuchin priest who wondered why they were getting married when it was Independence Day (then). Gilda's mother was unreasonably strict and did not approve of Marcelo. When President Diosdado Macapagal moved Independence Day from July 4 to June 12, so did the couple transfer their anniversary date.

Fifty years later, original witnesses Catalino Macaraig and Teresita Francisco Dichupa joined them again at the golden bash. Gilda could not forget Catalino's gift—a book on natural birth control—which she and Marcelo practiced so that when the second wedding (or "the public reenactment," as emcee Rody Vera put it) was held on June 6, 1953, at San Agustin Church, she was still the picture of a blushing bride.

The bridesmaids (Mercedes Paez Gutierrez and Elena Dizon Ocampo) and usher (Alex Z. Reyes) in '53 became the 2002 sponsors apart from the new ones (the previously mentioned Ning and Ann, writer Mariel N. Francisco, Benito de la Cruz and Demetrio Andres).

PAINTER Plet Bolipata, dancer Myra Beltran, Carmita Francisco, INQUIRER founder Eugenia Apostol, Maribel Ongpin and Felice Sta. Maria

A GALAXY of *ninangs*: Mercedes Paez Gutierrez, Elena Dizon Ocampo, Teresita Dichupa, Mariel Francisco, Ann Wizer and Rosario Encarnacion Tan

### A karmic past

In a confiding tone, Gilda said there were other boys who courted her, but it was Marcelo "who made me feel secure. He has always been my only love." She laughingly compared themselves to "albatrosses tied around each other's necks. We have a karmic past, spiritual lessons that we had to learn from each other. That's why at this age we're happy about this anniversary."

And so were those celebrating with them (no champagne toasts, please), including two nonagenarians (the Nakpils) and their respective nurses, Gilda's "partners in theater and writing projects, spiritual fellow travelers, companions to discos and rock concerts who help me not to grow too old too fast" and Marcelo's more reticent relatives and buddies.

Some of the exactly 315 guests were: National Artist F. Sionil and Tessie Jose (he with his right hand in his shirt à la Napoleon), Far Eastern University president Edilberto de Jesus and wife Melinda, poet Virginia Moreno, Meralco president Chito Francisco seen doing the cha-cha with Mariel, National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Araceli Dans, Brenda Fajardo, Roberto Feleo, Elmer Borlongan, Plet Bolipata, Bencab, Gerry Leonardo, Gigi Escalante, dancers Edna Vida and Nonoy Froilan, theater folks Nonon Padilla, Salvador Bernal, CB Garrucho, filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, writers Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Sylvia Mayuga, Benilda Santos, Barbara Gonzalez, Maribel Ongpin, Fe Arriola, Gemino Abad, Alfred Yuson, Bienvenido Lumbera, Ricardo de Ungria, Jose Lacaba, Marra Lanot, Bobbie Malay, Satur Ocampo, Lorna and Vic Tirol, Clinton Palanca, Lourd de Veyra, photographer Wig Tysman, Cesar and Joy Virata, "smoking nun" Ida Bugayong, INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez David and hubby Pie, environmentalist Odette Alcantara, academics Nieves and S.V. Epistola, feminist Anna Leah Sarabia, the entire members of Gilda's anthroposophy, and Women Plus groups.

There was the briefest of rainfalls later in the evening. It could only be read as additional blessing.

MIGUEL Fernando holds the angel's wings representing Archangel Gabriel. With him are mother Lilli-Ann, brother Juaneo and father Mol.

FRANCO Regalado waves wings that stand for Archangel Rafael. With him are brothers Io and Carlo, mother Wendy and father Roy.

EDNA Zapanta Manlapaz and Lorna Kalaw Tirol

RAFAEL, Quinito, Bing Bing and Arcus Fernando acknowledge the presence of Archangel Uriel.

LANELLE Abueva-Fernando marches with daughters Majalya (left) and Chin-chin in their Steve de Leon *saya*.

# Processing consumer complaints; staple wires in food products

THE CONSUMER

*Marietta Velasco Giron*

AS WE mentioned in our column last week, here is our interview with the consumer services officials of Nestlé Philippines. Jo Duran is head of consumer services while Tess Banno is the company's food technologist.

**How do consumers lodge their complaints or comments?**

They can file their complaints by telephone, letter, e-mail or fax to consumer services department. The service staff takes calls during office hours on weekdays. On weekends, callers can leave voice messages that are unloaded first thing Monday. Automated software makes it possible to link up Nestlé factories nationwide for faster response. Information about address and other contact details of consumer services are found on the label of every product.

**What follows after a complaint or feedback is received?**

Our field representatives visit the customer within 1-2 days (weekends not counted) after a complaint is received. The product sample in question is requested, and as standard procedure, fresh product replacements are provided to the consumer. But even before the sample arrives at the factory, library samples are examined in advance and production records are reviewed.

**After the sample is taken, where does it go?**

The sample is sent to the quality assurance laboratory of the concerned factory. There, it is subjected to package inspection and testing, sensory evaluation, bacteriological analysis and/or review of production records, depending on the nature of the complaint. A field representative also goes to the store that sold the product and buys a similar item from the same lot code for evaluation.

**Do you get fraudulent and malicious complaints?**

Not all complaints are legitimate. Some are motivated by hopes of material gains. For example, one customer demanded a brand-new tricycle for an alleged defective product. Others, intent on blackmail, threaten us with media exposure or police blotter, or they drop the names of influential personalities. Then there was a complainant who placed a gun on the table when our field staff visited him. Some fraudulent complaints include finding a house lizard in the product.

**What tips can you give consumers and sellers to prevent product spoilage?**

Pasteurized products and liquid products in big packs should be consumed within two to three days after they are opened, even if the product is refrigerated. Milk, in particular, should be consumed not later than three days, regardless of expiry date.

Products in soft packs, for example, those in cartons like tetra packs (packaged in layers of paper material), are vulnerable to mishandling. When stacked too high in supermarkets, dents may form in packaging, causing microleaks that lead to insect infestation or contamination and early deterioration of product.

Exposure to extreme temperature, as when milk products are kept too close to a cooking stove, can also cause deterioration. Keep them refrigerated at all times. Return chilled products as soon as possible to the refrigerator so as not to break the cold chain. Keep temperature level at 2-4°C. When transporting these products from the supermarket to their final destination, place in the coolest area of the car.

**What are the contact numbers of Nestlé consumer services?**

Call 898-0061 or write or visit our office on the G/F of Nestlé Center at 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati. Send e-mail to consumer.services@ph.nestle.com.

**Parking lot woes**

William Lim of willim@I-manila.com.ph warns the public to check their car accessories before parking at malls, and make sure this is witnessed by attending security guards so they won't accuse you of making up stories if burglars steal your accessories. According to Lim, the left side mirror of his car was stolen at the 6/L of Robinson's Place while he and his family were in the mall between 2:30 and 7 p.m. The guards accused them of making false claims.

Lim recounted his experience when he reported the loss to the security guard. "The guard took one look at our license plate number, picked up his 2-way radio and talked with someone for 10 minutes. After that, he told us that they kept a record of every car that came in the parking lot, and they found out that our side mirror was already missing when we came in. He even challenged us to check the records at the gate.

"They were lying through their teeth. We had been glancing at that mirror while we drove up through six ramps of the long winding carport drive. Moreover, we depended on it to park the car in reverse."

Lim said he eventually talked to the guard's supervisor. "Thankfully, a good-natured and intelligent person came and talked to us, profusely apologizing and promising sanctions and immediate action. The security force was just evading responsibility over the theft. We knew all along that thefts at the car park were no longer the responsibility of guards, but we just couldn't take the insinuation of the guards that we were making false claims."

**Ban staple wires from food products**

Every now and then we receive complaints about staple wires finding their way to bakery products, snack items, dried fish, sugar and other food stuff. A few days ago, no less than columnist Tita Dulce in this paper called us up to complain about staple wires in a bag of bread she bought. She wants legislators to pass a law that bans the use of staple wires and other unfit materials in food products.

"You could gag on staple wires or cut your skin. It's a serious health hazard, particularly to people with diabetes," Tita Dulce stated. (We add the folks with poor eyesight to that!)

Here's a related letter from Clara Cabarroguis of rockycab@skyinet.net: "A friend from Cebu gave us a bag of dried *danggit* fish from Cebu. I was about to fry some pieces when I was horrified to find that each of the small fish was stapled to the plastic bag to hold the pieces in place! This called my attention to the use of staples in bread packages. Is this allowed by the Bureau of Food and Drugs? I think it is very dangerous to use staple wires on food. What if children or old people with dentures swallow these pointed metal objects?"

*Send comments and complaints to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph*

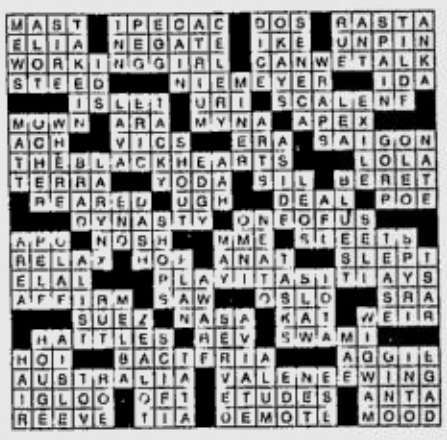
# Talk on urban development

URBAN planner and architect Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr. will speak on Global Trends and Revolutionary Ideas in Urban Development at the Map General Membership meeting on June 24 at the Peninsula Makati.

Palafox will talk about New Urbanism, Smart Growth for Cities, Lessons from 9/11 and the Oil Crisis of the '70s, Intramuros/Extramuros, Democratic Architecture, the Current Urban Mess, the Sunrise Cities of the Pacific Coast, Urban Renewal, Eyes on the Streets, Mixed Used Developments, Transit-Oriented Developments, Instant Cities, Liveable Cities and Walleye Communities, Urban Management, and Connecting Communities.

Some major projects of Palafox Associates in the Philippines include the Rockwell Center, Santa Elena Golf Course Community, Hacienda Santa Elena, the Manila Southwoods, SM Southmall in Las Piñas, SM City Fairview, SM City Pampanga, SM City Iloilo, SM China, Robinson's Metro East, Robinson's Starmills, the Asian Eye Institute, the Shrine of Jesus and Forbes Tower.

**ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD**



# Women designers set no boundaries in bridal fashion

**Text by Cathy Babao Guballa**
**Photos by Romy Homillada**

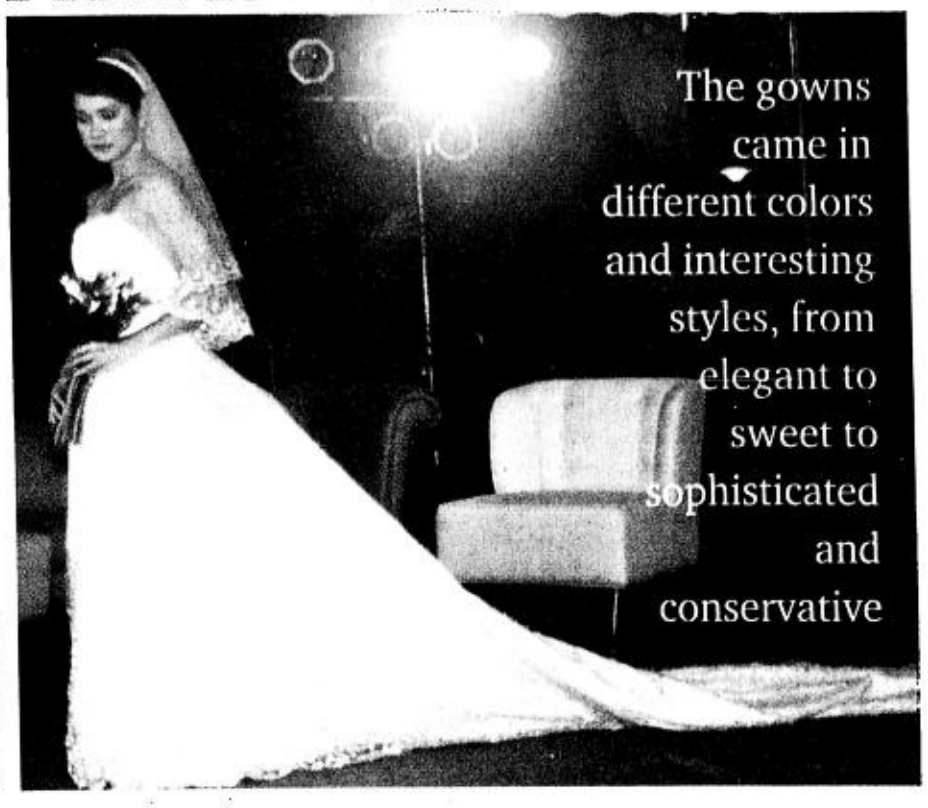
IT was clearly a woman's night that balmy Saturday evening at the Eastwood City entertainment complex in Libis, QC. Eight talented women designers took centerstage to showcase their wedding gown collections in the first-ever outdoor bridal fashion show at the Eastwood Citywalk. Tall and lovely models sashayed on the main street and on a ramp covered by a huge white canopy as the faces of the women designers were flashed on a huge video screen.

The eight designers were Delby Bragais, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Len Nepomuceno Guiao, Carla Sibal, Michi Calica-Sotto, Mia Urquico, and the mother-daughter team of Malu and Letlet Veloso. The fashion show was the highlight of "Bridal Walk," a three-day bridal fair that featured booths of car rental companies, wedding giveaways, florists, photographers, caterers and other suppliers any woman may need for her dream wedding.

The bridal gowns came in different colors and interesting styles, from elegant to sweet to sophisticated and conservative.

Bragais opened the show with her unique and daring wedding gowns in midnight black and red. The gowns were certainly not for the faint of heart or the conservative bride. Sleek, sexy and silky, we had visions of Morticia Addams

WOMEN/ p.E4




**ANGEL Jacob in Len Nepomuceno Guiao's beautiful white, strapless gown**

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For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday LIFESTYLE

# London calling and fever rising beyond sanity Bench-mark

ELTON John

LONDON/ p.F3

**T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS**

*Anton San Diego*

**MUST-HAVE book—"Bright Young Things-London."** This is the eagerly awaited follow-up to the successful Manhattan edition. International style icon and former Vogue and Bazaar stylist **Brooke de Ocampo** has captured London's most stylish and enterprising trendsetters such as **Ewan** and **Eve McGregor**, and **Cosima Van Bulow**, to name a few.

It's a lush and elegant book giving the reader a peek at the life and homes of London's new guards. The great part about most of the people who are featured is that even if some of them are heirs to large fortunes, they work and have gainful activities; they not only have style but also substance. They set the trends in fashion, lifestyle and attitude.

**Must-have CD—**"Café del Mar" Volume 9. The long wait is over. "Café del Mar's" spinmeisters have come up with the 2002 edition. Compiled by resident DJ **Bruno Lepetre**, the album contains 14 tracks of total chill-out, down-tempo music. It also contains an interactive track where you can view scenes from Ibiza, Café del Mar.

Although I still feel that the first seven volumes (compiled by **José Padilla**) were much better than the last two compiled by DJ Bruno, this one still is a good buy and makes for good listening.

**Bench fashion show.** If you were not at the Araneta Coliseum last June 14, you missed one of the hottest, biggest fashion events of the year!

The Bench fashion show left no stone unturned; it had a 40-ft-long ramp, glorious costumes, awesome faces and bodies. The show started with 20 almost-naked men reminiscent of those fraternity initiations, wearing masks. The sight made the women and the Dorothys in the audience scream with delight.

After that came an onslaught of models and Bench gear (jeans, underwear shirts, etc.). Actress **Aya Medel** and a pregnant **Wilma Doesnt** came out topless and delighted the men in the audience.

Although most of the models were buffed, sexy and awesome, there were probably two who did not fit in (they were actors). You could tell that they did not spend enough time in the gym to prepare for the show. They used a lot of makeup to enhance their flabby chests and stomachs. In a sea of beautiful stallions and mares, they looked like cows.

After the show, I went to the cast party at Wherelse and did my own survey of who looked great. The men thought **Aya Medel**'s twin endowments were awesome. The women thought **Wendell Ramos**, **Marc Nelson** and **John Hall** looked good.

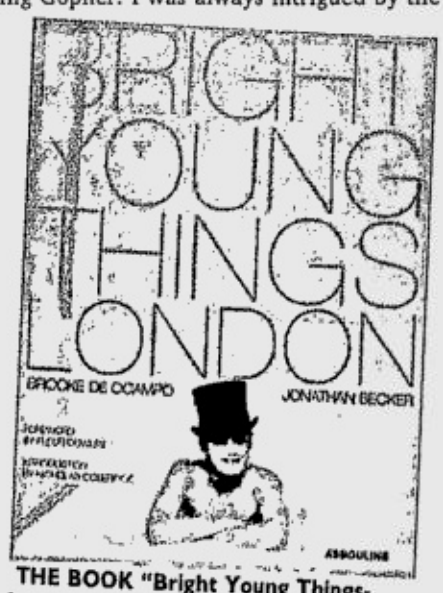
For me, **Diether Ocampo** and filmdom's royal couple **Richard** and **Lucy Gomez** were the absolute standouts. Lucy was luminescent and regal, while Richard showed that although he had been in the business longer than most of the other actors and models, he still had "it"; he truly ruled the show.

Congratulations to **Ariel Lozada**, **Michael Salientes** and to the man who made it all happen, **Ben Chan**.

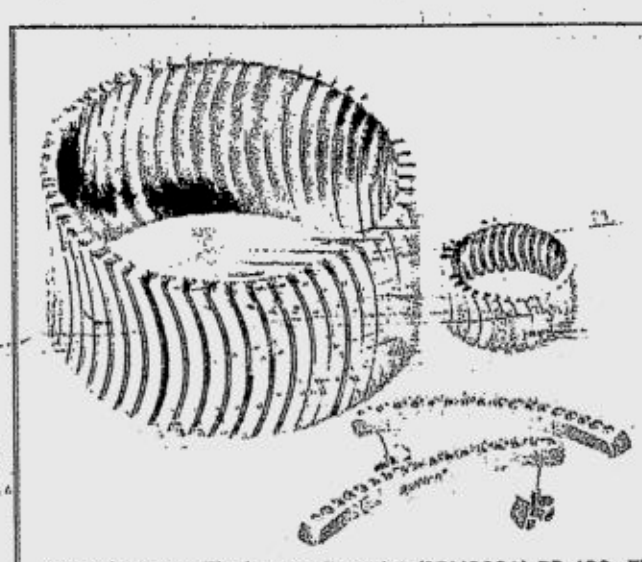
**Must-see event: "The White Party."** On June 29, Maria Orosa Street in Malate will be the scene for the annual Gay Pride celebration. There will be cage dancers, celebrity hosts and all-night partying with music from DJ **Cocoy Puyat** and **Patch**. The whole hip side of Malate will be covered in a white tent. Party starts at 9 p.m. Wear white!

**Star Cruise.** Growing up in the '80s, one of my favorite TV shows was "The Love Boat." I liked all the characters except for the irritating Gopher. I was always intrigued by the guests who went on board and what their stories would be like.

Likewise, whenever I would go to Hong Kong and shop at the Ocean Terminal, there would always be a ship docked at the pier. I would wonder what it would be like to actually travel in one. Well, that desire will be realized as soon as I embark on my first-ever

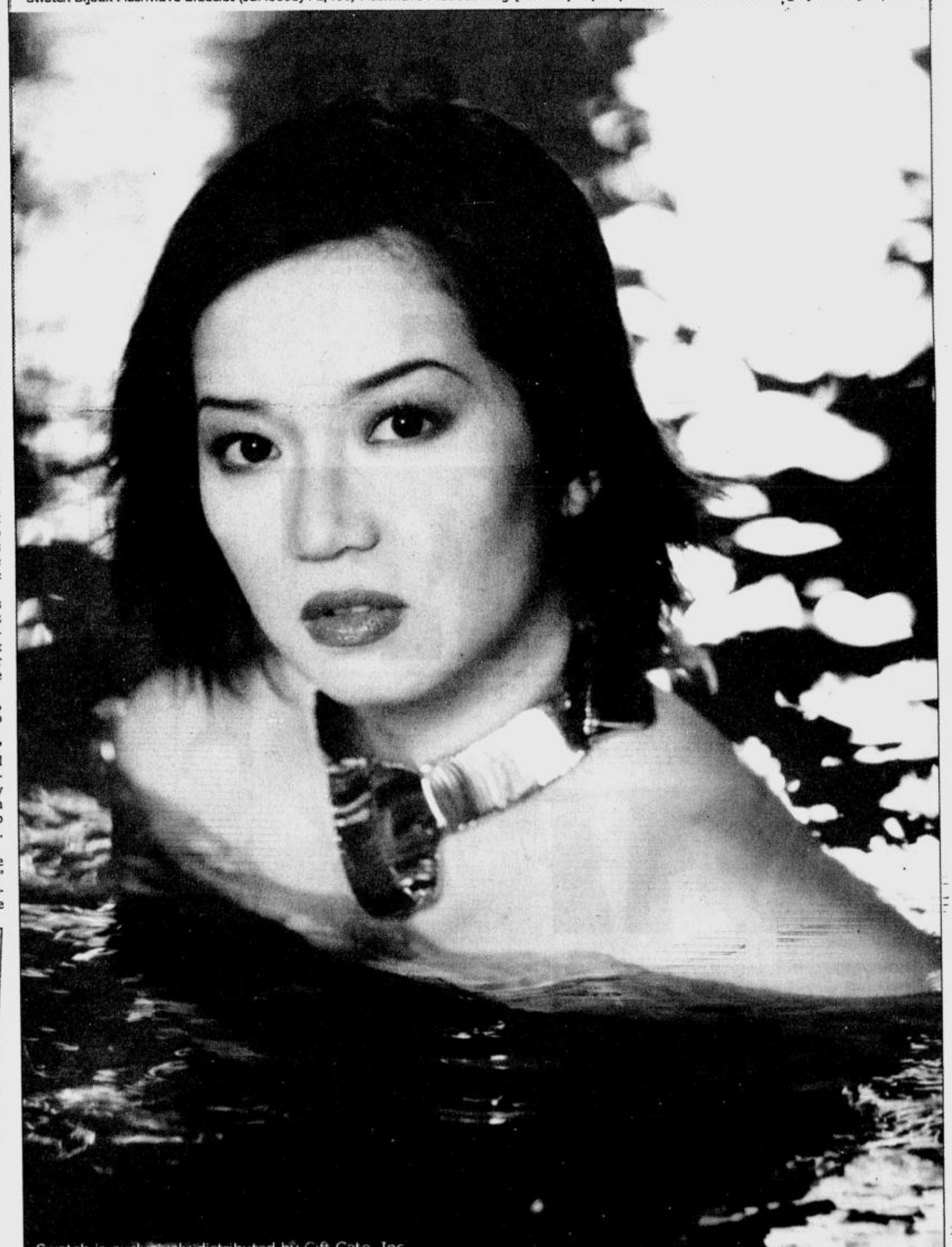



THE BOOK "Bright Young Things-London" chronicles trend-makers.



swatch bijoux

Swatch Bijoux Flashwave Bracelet (JBM0001) P2,400; Flashwave Precious Ring (JRM005) P2,100; Flashwave Precious Earrings (JEM002) P1,500



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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

ANTHONY and Tet Suntay

PLANET Sports president Anton Gonzalez with models Menchu Antigua and Joana Penaloza

NACHO Garcia and Paxti Elizalde

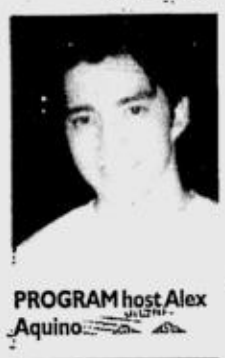
CHRISTINE Coronel and Betsu Torres

*BALIKBAYAN* models Chris Pettersen and Ches Francisco

RIZA de Dios-Torres

CHAD Davis of Intercon

# Doing laps in style


PROGRAM host Alex Aquino

KARA Tolentino

PSC Commissioner Eric Buhain

ALEX Santos

A VERY innovative fashion presentation was the Arena swimwear show at the InterContinental poolside last week. On hand to welcome guests were Planet Sports president **Anton Gonzalez** and his team headed by **Riza** and **Betsu Torres.**

The show, directed by **Robby Carmona**, opened with a synchronized swimming performance by the Aquabelle swimmers. It was followed by gorgeous male and female models in Arena swimsuits walking down the catwalk submerged in the shallow portion of the pool.

The presentation was capped by the introduction of the Philippine National Swimming Team that will be officially outfitted by Arena.

TEESAW
*Raul Teehankee*

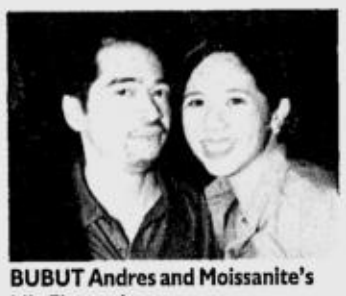

TONI Gregory and Tony Gonzalez

SUBMERGED male models

# Hip dance party

TECHNOSPORT recently celebrated A Mark of Evolution at 78Orange. Guests were treated to a show directed by Rem Zamora, which was a play on the sports angle of the watch line. Dancers interpreted six sports taken from the pages of Technosport 2002 catalog. The evening hit fever pitch when MTV VJ Anna Shier announced the winners of three Technosport watches. NBK resident DJs Manolet and Jed Dario and Robert Villaluz of 78Orange then stepped up the plate to serve grooves for the crowd.

Also spotted that evening were Amanda Griffin, Paolo Araneta, Ria Yujuico, Martin Gallaga, Duane and Mandy Santos, Gina Mok, Ana Sicat, Charly Atienza, Butch San Agustin, Nicole Acuña, NBK's Teddy and Janine Dario, Dingdong Dantes, Bubut Andres, FTV's Cyrus Rapinan, MTV's Anne Matoto, Sigrid Villamil, Anna Martha Moreno and Richie Santos, Tanya Moreno and Quad de la Paz, Joey Carpo, Tina Montinola and Raj Moreno.


BUBUT Andres and Moissanite's Mia Florencio

JAYPEE Tuason with wife Jeanette showing off his Alpha Sport

TECHNOMARINE'S Jerome Garcia, Dennis Aquino, Goody Ilagan and Em Lingao

CUY Legaspi, Gino de la Paz, Technomarine's Ciara Sevilla and MTV's Anna Shier

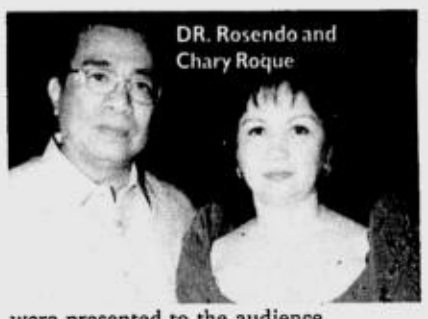
FTV'S Lulay and Cyprus Rapintan, Technomarine president Raffy Florencio, Ciara Sevilla and INQ7's Paolo Prieto

*Dinner-dance for a cause*

COMMUNITY leaders of Hagonoy, Bulacan founded the Question Mark Club 54 years ago to help push economic growth and create social programs in the Manila Bay town area.

Headed by Susana Ople, Question Mark Club recently celebrated its 54th anniversary with a dinner-dance billed "May Dreams Come True" at The Manila Hotel. Directed by Frannie Zamora and emceed by Boots Anson-Roa, the program formally opened with Msgr. Macario Manahan doing the invocation.

Hagonoy town Mayor Toti Ople delivered the welcome address. Guests of honor were Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Blas Ople and Mila Drilon. The Club's muse, Estelle Ople Osorio, and her escort, David Kahn, were presented to the audience.


DR. Rosendo and Chary Roque

Proceeds of the event will be used to improve the emergency ward of the Emilio Perez Hospital in Hagonoy and the Tahanang Mapagpala II home for the elderly in Malolos, Bulacan.

(STANDING) Mila Drilon, Gina de Venecia, Cynthia Villar, (seated) Efraim, Senator Blas Ople and Susan Ople

# *Zany mix of themes*

CESAR N. Sarino, Gilbert Kelly, Carlos Bayot, Humprey O' Leary III

DIETER Lonishen and Urs Paul Gressly

CHEF Gordon Landy, Humprey O'Leary (seated), Cesar Sarino, David John Batchelor, Larry Cowle, Edna B. Diaz and Augusto Fabella

AT The Peninsula Manila's Chaine des Rotisseurs 2002 gala induction dinner recently held at the Rigodon Ballroom, glamorous ladies dressed to the nines and men in dinner jackets and Barong Tagalog gathered that evening to feed their senses.

The event featured the brightest young chefs, hefty helpings of the most divine food and nubile belly dancers.

The guests sipped champagne and enjoyed cocktails. True to the Chaine-des Rotisseurs tradition, each dish on the seven-item menu was served with theatricality: Charmoula of Tuna with Pickled Dried Lemon and Olives, Guinea Fowl and Dried Beans Harira, Scallops and Red Mullet with Okra and Anchovies Risotto, Rolled and Braised Lamb Shoulder Tajin, Figs and Goat Cheese Mille Feuille with Honey Jelly and Dates, and Almond Custard Tartlette with Orange Water Ice Cream.

The vintage cognac, double espressos and The Pen's handmade chocolates kept the party in full swing till late evening.

# A night of timeless love songs

IT was truly one amazing night when Ryan Cayabyab and Lani Misalucha recently performed at the NBC Tent.

Lani rendered her own version of revival hits, rhythm and blues and unforgettable songs of the past as Mr. C provided piano accompaniment.

"Amazing Nights at the Tent," sponsored by Smart Communications, features Cayabyab with various artists every month. Previous guests included Gary Valenciano, Ogie Alcasid, Ana Fegi, Bituin Escalante and Carol Banawa.

The fourth in the series of "Amazing Nights at the Tent" started at 10 p.m. Cayabyab opened the show with "Help Me Make It Through" as Misalucha dished out "I'm Gonna" mixed with "Going out of My Head." This was followed by Cayabyab and Misalucha singing a medley of "Shaker" and "Do You Know."

Misalucha then encouraged the audience, composed mostly of yuppies, to cuddle up to their dates as she rendered "The Nearness of You." She then sang one of her very first singles "Somebody Warm Like Me" followed by "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me."

Thirty minutes into the show, people began to warm up as Lani sang Kevin Letau's "Sunlight" and "Orange-Colored Sky" while walking toward the middle of the tent.

The event turned into a rendezvous for lovers, friends or friends turning into lovers as a love song medley was being performed. The repertoire included Cayabyab and Misalucha's personal favorites "And I Love Her," "Certain Sadness," "Here's That Rainy Day," "Trouble

with Hello is Goodbye," "Softly, I Don't Want You to Go," "Never My Love," "Love Is Stronger Far Than We," "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" and "It Might Be You." This was capped by the quintessential love song "The Way We Were."

As the two artists prepared to accommodate requests from the audience, Cayabyab commended Lani for being such a great singer.

"Performing with just a piano is difficult for a singer because there are no other instruments to cover up flaws, and there are no backup singers. Lani is really amazing," Cayabyab said.

Cayabyab and Lani also sang all-time favorites: "Say A Little Prayer," "Loving You," "Iibigin Ay Ikaw" and "Touch Me in the Morning."

Finally, Mr. C and Lani capped the show with a Broadway hit medley singing standards such as "Movie in My Mind," "Memory" and "Climb Every Mountain."

HOT ALBUM. "Café del Mar" Volume 9

# London calling and fever rising beyond sanity Bench-mark

From page F1

cruise today aboard Star Cruise's Leo.

It's a three-day cruise that takes me to Hong Kong, China and Vietnam. Although I don't think I will find a "love connection" in three days, the company I am going to be with will more than make up for it.

Some 30 persons have been invited, including **Pops Fernandez**, **Doris Ho**, **Ernest Escaler**, **Gina Lopez**, **Marc Nelson**, **Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo**, **Keren Pascual**, **Albert** and **Liezl Martinez**, **Maurice Arcache**, **Dennis** and **Tessa Valdes**, to name a few.

The ship can accommodate 2,000 persons, has two adult pools and a children's pool, a discotheque, a concert hall called Moulin Rouge that seats 1,000 people; five different types of restaurants; fitness and spa centers; a shopping arcade; and a place where you can take a photo at the ship's bow (think "Titanic"). It seems perfect! So I am looking forward to what I feel will be a great vacation.

### 10 things we wish were true, but aren't

1. That **Britney Spears** is a virgin.
2. That Superman exists to get rid of crimes.
3. That politicians want to serve the people and not their own selfish interests.
4. That you have a soulmate who will complement and make you whole.
5. That victims of heinous crimes like **Nida Blanca** can be given justice.
6. That members of the military, law enforcers, NBI and police are not involved in kidnapping.
7. That Filipinos do not have crab mentality.
8. That you subscribe to healthy eating.
9. That the clothes you see on fashion shows or fashion magazines suit you well.
10. That **Elton John** would make a better Queen of England than **Elizabeth**; why, he might even look better with a tiara.

*E-mail the author at asd-world@ hotmail.com*

## *Baby's coming but doc is out, what to do?*

BABY Magazine answers the question of what do you do when labor pains start but the doctor is nowhere to be found.

In the cover story, Michelle van Eimeren and Ogie Alcasid talk about parenthood the second time around, and their plans for daughter Leila.

The current issue also features Tan Gan's knits for expectant moms and kids. Baby Magazine is available at all SM Baby Company sections, National Book Store, and leading newsstands. Call 751-3655 to -56 or 887-3456.

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# Life on the fun side

FLIK Flak watches have been fantastic tools to teach children how to tell time. For Sarah Meier, who is larger-than-life in the modeling world, there is nothing extra small about the collection. The latest assortment of watches in colorful and pretty patterns definitely captured Sarah's young girl's heart.

On some models, the hands are represented by Flik and Flak: Flak, the little red hour hand, points out the hour numerals of the same color, while Flik, her brother, is the long blue and white hand. He marks minute numerals of the same color: sometimes blue on a white background, sometimes white on a blue background. On other models, novelty hands, the colors of which correspond to the hours, minutes and seconds they are indicating, have replaced these figures.

The new Flik Flak watches are available at all Swatch stores and kiosks and Gift Gate stores.

"DON'T tell anyone, I love Flik Flak too!" Nothing is extra small for this larger-than-life model. For Sarah Meier, the latest Flik Flak collection definitely suits her taste. After all, Flik Flak is part of the Swatch Group.

DOGGIE (P1,350), My Horses (P1,350), the Brise (P1,500) Scuba and its tropical pouch...these three Flik Flak watches are offered in multi-use clear plastic pouches which include a matching wallet with badges!

QUEEN Roses (P1,200) is a dream watch!

THE FLIK Flak Doggie watch will appeal to those who love dogs.

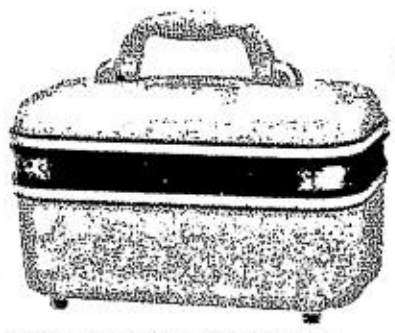
MILLENNIUM Blue upright trolley—top choice for a worry-free travel

PRETTY in pink carry-on beauty case from the Emphasis Collection of Benetton

A SURE bet for any traveler who packs light—Emphasis trolley

# Traveler's best pal

THE NEW Benetton collection will fit the traveler's requirements. They are tasteful and durable. Only the best materials are used: polyester, nylon oxford and resin. Benetton is exclusively distributed at Benetton Boutiques and Gift Gate Stores.



CARRY beauty in style with the Millennium acid-green beauty case.

NOVA shopping bag and matching purse is perfect for the always-on-the-go kind of gal. Available in burgundy and copper tones.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**WANTED:** ***Articulate, good looking and aggressive individuals who will earn as much as P100,000.00/month by promoting today's fastest selling and most sought-after investment.***

*TOWNHOUSES & CONDOMINIUM UNITS*
*CELEBRITY CLUB SHARES*

If you are:

- 20-30 years old, attractive, good-looking female
- Aggressive, with good communication skills
- With good connections and prospect listings

You will receive:

- Basic salary
- Commissions and bonuses
- Intensive training and marketing support

Depending on your qualifications and interests, you can become

- ***PROPERTY CONSULTANTS***
- ***MARKETING EXECUTIVES***
- ***MARKETING COORDINATOR***

Independent brokers may apply. Assumption of accepted applicants will be on July 1, 2002, after intensive training. Interested applicants may apply in person. Bring your resumé and 2x2 photo at the Marketing Department of CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA, Capitol Hills, Diliman, Quezon City on JUNE 24-30, 2002, Monday to Sunday, between 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. **or call 931-2107, 951-3333 loc. 107/217 and look for Boots or Deunice.**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

## globalstride

**We are one of the country's premier companies engaged in internet-based Customer Relationship Management. We invite experienced and highly motivated individuals to join our organization for the following positions:**

### IT Manager Code: ITM-IT)

The Information Technology Manager will be responsible for directing, managing, assessing and organizing company's IT needs covering the areas of hardware/software and telecoms. The candidate must have at least three (3) years progressive experience in the same capacity acquired from a Call Center or IT solutions environment. Must have solid foundation in using Microsoft platforms such as Windows NT, SQL, Microsoft 2000. Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering (Computer/Telecommunication), Computer Science/IT or equivalent. He/she must have the ability to mentor and motivate technical staff and deliver projects as required.

### Training Officer (Code: TO-Trn)

The Training Officer will be responsible for designing, developing, implementing, and monitoring of training programs for staff and management levels. Specific area of discipline would cover a broad range of Organization Development functions relating to culture building, quality improvement processes, strategic planning, team building, career planning and competency-based systems. The candidate must have sufficient exposure in interactive and integrative approaches to teaching and learning. Must have excellent presentation skills, creative, assertive, and highly organized. Must possess strong customer service orientation. The candidate must be a university degree holder in any of the following fields, Psychology/Human Resource Management/Industrial Engineering, with post graduate degree or units an advantage. Knowledge of TQM/ISO processes and experience in a Call Center environment, a plus. Persons must be between 25-30 years of age and must be willing to work on shifts. Preferably single.

### Compensation and Benefits Supervisor (Code: CBS-HR)

The Compensation and Benefits Supervisor will be responsible for introducing, managing, administration and evaluation of the company's compensation and benefits programs ranging from payroll administration, monitoring of sales commission, promotion, performance review, among others. The ideal candidate must have a solid background in wage and salary administration preferably gained from a service or manufacturing industry; he/she must possess sufficient hands-on exposure in conducting market research on industry standards. The candidate must be a Business/Statistics/ Finance/Behavioral Science graduate, with at least four (4) years solid experience in this field. Must be proficient in using spreadsheet; Persons must be between 20-30 years of age.

### Payroll Specialist (Code: PS-HR)

The Payroll Specialist will be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of computation, timeliness of release, and confidentiality of information related to payroll. The ideal candidate must have at least 2 years extensive experience in payroll administration gain from a service or manufacturing company with minimum of 500 employees. Must be adept in government mandated regulations (ie. Tax, SSS, HDMF, PhilHealth, etc) and Philippine wage law. The candidate must be an Accounting graduate; CPA, an advantage. He/she must have excellent peoples skills and can work well under pressure. Persons between 25 - 30 years of age are preferred.

### Customer Care Specialists (Code: CCS-PM)

The Customer Care Specialists will be at the forefront of our organization. They will be the focal point for all customer requests, and will be responsible for providing front line support and assistance to our clients. Our Customer Care Specialists are expected to analyze, diagnose and solve problems, with consistently high customer satisfaction rating. They should be courteous, customer-focused, and must be team spirited. The ideal candidates for the position are persons who are internet savvy college graduates; excellent communications skills; are between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal skills; and are willing to work shifts. Previous experience in the customer relations management industry and can speak any foreign language such as Fooklen, Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish is a plus.

### LAN Tech Engineer (Code: LTE-IT)

The LAN Engineer will be responsible for the installation, monitoring and troubleshooting of computer peripherals and workstations. The candidate must have a strong foundation in providing technical support (hardware and software); proficient in LAN/WAN, client server, and Windows 2000 environment. The candidate must be a university degree holder in BS Computer Science/Engineering, and must be a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP). Persons must be between 20-25 years of age.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position code to:

**GLOBALSTRIDE**
**Attn: Human Resources Department**
**29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark**
**E. Rodriguez Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City**
**Email: Jobs@webservasia.com.ph**
**Fax No: 911-8854**

*"Real people for your customers all the time"*

## Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

2nd Floor MWSS Engineering Building
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 926-5233; 926-5234

### JOB VACANCIES

Inviting qualified applicants for the following positions:

**One (1) Deputy Executive Director for Operations (SG-27)**

Professional Manager; With MS degree in Environmental Science/ Sanitation or related field, preferably with background in urban planning, chemical, civil and sanitary engineering; at least 10 years supervisory/ management experience of development projects and inter-agency coordination.

**One (1) Deputy Executive Director for Administrative and Finance (SG-27)**

Lawyer (BAR passer), willing to be employed in full time basis and handle PRRC legal cases, administrative and financial matters; With background in program administration, accounting, budgeting and procurement; at least ten (10) years supervisory experience.

**One (1) Legal Officer III (SG-20)**

BAR passer with one year experience in handling legal cases.

**One (1) Administrative Officer III (SG 18)**

Graduate of a four year course preferably with three years of experience in administrative work, and willing to handle Human Resource Development Program.

**One (1) Property Custodian (SG-8)**

Graduate of a four year course with one year experience in property and supply management.

**One (1) Project Development Officer III (SG 18)**

Graduate of a four year course with excellent writing skills, three years experience in report preparation and project coordination.

Interested applicants may submit resumé/curriculum vitaé with 2x2 photo to the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, 2nd floor, Engineering Building, MWSS, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City on or before July 15, 2002.

## ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

**The Asian Institute of Management is looking for qualified individuals to fill up the position below:**

### PROGRAM MANAGER

He/She must be an MBA or Master Degree holder, with exposure in program management, with effective administrative skills, excellent oral and written communication skills, and good interpersonal and organizational skills. He/She will assist in the development of Health Care Management Program materials, develop and implement marketing plans, coordinate case writing activities, facilitate program logistics and administration and conduct program evaluation and prepare terminal reports.

**This is an urgent requirement.**
**Only individuals who are qualified and can start immediately are encouraged to send their resume with 2x2 picture and transcript of records to the Office for the Human Resource Development, Asian Institute of Management, 123 Paseo De Roxas Street, Makati City.**

## A soft spot for tough customers

## iBank
International Exchange Bank

### PROJECT LEADERS

**DESCRIPTION:**

- Will be responsible in planning, administering and controlling tasks relative to the Treasury-Trust System or the General Ledger and Datawarehouse Systems
- Will be involved in analysis, design and programming activities
- Will develop functional requirements and technical specifications
- Will coordinate business requirements with the users
- Will manage and supervise analyst/programmers

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- With high analytical skills
- Above average programming skills
- Above average skills in PL/SQL, Developer 2000 Forms and Reports will be an advantage
- Knowledge of the Globus Treasury System and Universe database will be an advantage
- Exposure in the Oracle database, OLAP design and tools will be an advantage
- Leadership skills are necessary
- At least 5 years experience as Project Leader
- Graduate of BS Computer Science, BS Engineering or any related course

### SR. ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

**DESCRIPTION:**

- Will perform programming and maintenance of application systems
- Will provide supervision and prepare program specifications to junior programmers
- Will prepare test conditions, scripts and conduct testing

### ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

**DESCRIPTION:**

- Will perform programming and maintenance of application systems

**QUALIFICATIONS** (for both Sr. Analyst/Programmer & Analyst Programmer):

- With high analytical skills
- With programming skills
- Exposure in the Globus Treasury System and Universe Database will be an advantage
- At least 1-3 years experience as an Analyst/Programmer
- Graduate of BS Computer Science, BS Engineering or any related course

Interested parties are requested to send their comprehensive resumes to any of the addresses below with a 2x2 photo attached.

**(POSITION APPLIED FOR)**
Human Resource Management Cluster
4/F iBank Exchange Building, 142 Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati
**E-mail address: *Jobs@ibank.com.ph***

Visit our website at:
**www.ibank.com.ph**

The
## COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS
is looking for dynamic young professionals to fill-up the following vacant positions:

**(1) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER III (SG 24)**
Master's Degree in management or any master's degree relevant to the job; 4 years experience in positions involving information technology management and supervision; 24 hours training in management and supervision; very good oral and written communication skills; and with civil service eligibility or appropriate professional eligibility for second level position.

**(1) SUPERVISING EMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICER (SG 22)**
Bachelor Degree; 3 years of experience in planning, organizing and implementing projects; very good written and oral communication skills; holder of civil service professional eligibility for second level position; and with 16 hours of relevant training. Experience in research and project implementation preferred.

**(8) SENIOR EMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICER (SG 18)**
Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Social Science or any related field; very good oral and written communication skills; 2 years relevant experience in research and/or project management; computer literate; and civil service eligible.

**(1) ACCOUNTANT III (SG 18)**
Bachelor's Degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; very good oral and written communication skills; 2 years relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training computer literate; and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

**(2) INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST II (SG 16)**
Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Management, Computer Engineering or any related field; with experience in systems analysis and design and computer programming; knowledge in Visual Basic and SQL is required; very good oral and written communication skills and with civil service professional eligibility.

**(3) EMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICER II (SG 15)**
Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Economics, Psychology or any related field; very good oral and written communication skills; experience in research and/or project management preferred; computer literate and with civil service professional eligibility.

**(1) COMPUTER PROGRAMMER II (SG 15)**
Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Computer Management or any related field; with experience and training in computer programming, computer systems analysis and design; knowledge in computer hardware preferred; civil service professional.

**(1) INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST I (SG 12)**
Bachelor's Degree Computer in Science, Computer Management, Computer Engineering, or any related field; experience in systems analysis and design and computer programming; relevant training preferably in systems analysis and design; knowledge in Visual Basic and SQL is required; very good in oral and written communication skills; and with civil service professional eligibility or appropriate eligibility for second level position.

**(1) CASHIER I (SG 10)**
Bachelor's Degree; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional eligibility.

**(1) COMPUTER OPERATOR II (SG 9)**
Completion of two years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/ trade course; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; 4 hours of relevant training; and with civil service professional/sub-professional or data encoder eligibility.

**(5) CLERK III (SG 6)**
Bachelor's Degree; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional or sub-professional eligibility.

**(1) CLERK II (SG 4)**
Bachelor's Degree; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional or sub-professional eligibility.

**(1) DRIVER**
At least with 3 years experience; with professional driver's license.

*Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture, transcript of records, and a photocopy of civil service eligibility to:*

COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS
Citigold Center, 1345 Quirino Avenue
Corner South Superhighway, Manila, Philippines
Or call 561-8317 or 561-8321 loc. 502 (Look for Rossana)
e-mail address: cfoffs9@info.com.ph

*Previous applicants need not apply.*

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ADB

## *Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific*
Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

# Assistant Financial Systems Analyst

***Reporting Arrangements:***
The position reports to Principal Control Officer, Financial Information System Section (CTOC-FIS), Controller's Department.

***Description of Responsibilities:***
The position will assist Head, FIS Section in the development, implementation and maintenance of LIBOR-based Loan Administration and Accounting System, and in reviewing other financial systems within the Controller's Department (CTL). Specific responsibilities include:

- assisting in the development and implementation of LIBOR-based loan administration and accounting system by reviewing and analyzing users' requirements, preparing data for conversion, identifying detailed gaps solutions, conducting fit analysis and assisting in user testing and training;
- assisting in reviewing business processes and identifying processes for simplification to facilitate system implementation;
- monitoring project progress and following up with users and concerned staff, consultants and parties to ensure timely implementation of project tasks and activities;
- assisting in the review of related financial systems by analyzing and debugging new and existing programs, verifying accuracy and completeness of computer program logics, diagnosing system failures, preparing incident reports and taking necessary corrective and preventive actions;
- coordinating with users and Office of Information Sysyterns and Technology (OIST) for effective maintenance and enhancements of the required systems;
- assisting the Department IT Coordinator and CTL staff in analyzing CTL's IT requirements; maintaining an updated list of computer hardware and staff accountability; reviewing and coordinating with OIST for efficient and effective use of hardware and software facilities;
- designing and suggesting new reporting formats to improve work efficiency; ensuring completeness and accuracy of related computer-generated reports;
- preparing regular and specialized financial reports and undertaking follow-up functions to ensure compliance with related policies and procedures;
- assisting in the development and preparation of training materials and conducting specialized training seminars to selected group of users as necessary; and
- undertaking research work and other special projects as required to improve business efficiency.

***Selection Criteria:***
- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a college degree in computer science or business administration with major in accounting or finance; a CPA designation is an added advantage;
- five years experience in system analysis or programming with knowledge in accounting or auditing;
- proficiency in MS Word and MS Excel, and familiarity with different programming languages and softwares being used in the finance industry; and
- excellent oral and written English skills.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit http://www.adb.org.

*Send **CV/resume** and cover letter by **fax, mail** or **e-mail**. An online form is available at **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp**.*
*Quote **Ref. No. 02-13** and submit application by **28 June 2002** to:*

**Tel: (63-2) 632-4444** **HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION**
**Fax: (63-2) 636-2550** **ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**
**E-mail: ss-jobs@adb.org** **P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

**Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.**

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An established group of companies seek a dynamic aggressive individual to fill the position of:

# COLLECTION MANAGER

- Graduate of a 4-year college course in Accounting, Finance or Business Management
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate, preferably Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint
- Strong interpersonal skills, mature and no less than 40 years old
- Previous experience in collection and finance department

The successful applicant shall receive an annual compensation package of no less than Php 600,000 exclusive of benefits. Interested parties may send their resumé with 2x2 photo, transcript of records to:

**Box KA-014-02-CS**
**c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer**
**Classified Ads Division**
**G/F Trinity Building, #636 T.M. Kalaw Street**
**Ermita, Manila**
**Email: jm1@inquirer.com.ph**

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# DO YOU MEASURE UP?

A globally known company leading the ranks of the country's most prestigious industry is looking for highly motivated and dynamic individuals who have the passion to succeed!

**Qualified candidates must be:**
- Graduate of any four year course from reputable schools
- Preferably with 1 to 2 years telemarketing experience
- With pleasant speaking voice
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality
- At least 5'4" in height for female and 5'8" for male
- Have the drive to excel in the challenging and rewarding world of sales
- Ability to speak Chinese an advantage

Please send resumé with 2x2 colored picture and transcript of records to:

**Box 700**
**c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer**
**5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall**
**Mandaluyong City**

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## THE PRIME GROUP

**Prime Sales, Inc.**, a marketing company specializing in Materials Handling and Warehousing system, and Prime Panel, Inc., a manufacturer of quality prefabricated insulated building panels, need young, dynamic, aggressive and result oriented individuals to be part of our **SALES & SERVICE TEAM** here in Manila and Cebu office.

## SALES REPRESENTATIVES (Male or Female)
- 24-35 years old, hardworking, result oriented with engineering background an advantage
- At least 2 years experience in sales preferably in the field of equipment, construction, instrumentation or other similar industries is an advantage (Fresh graduates also welcome)
- Must possess effective communication skills

**For Cebu Candidates** (additional requirements)
- Willing to be based in Cebu and can speak the dialect
- Familiar with the key cities in the Visayas and Mindanao region

## COORDINATOR/SERVICE CLERK
- Female, 21-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably in computer secretarial
- Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Microsoft Access
- Good communication skills (both written & oral)
- Honest & hardworking

Applicants must apply in person from June 24-27, 2002 (Monday - Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 nn / 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for an interview. Bring your comprehensive resumé and come in your business attire.

Successful candidates are assured of the best opportunities available in our industry.

**PRIME SALES, INC.**
AFP-RSBS Industrial Park
Km. 12 East Service Road
South Super Hi-way corner C-5
Taguig, Metro Manila
Phone No. 839-0106 to 09
E-mail address: prime@i-next.net

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GHD | MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENT

## IT MANAGER

**GHD is an international consultancy providing leadership in management, engineering and environmental services with a commitment to sustainable development. GHD is currently seeking candidates for an IT Manager in its Manila office.**

**Requirements:**
- Working knowledge of Windows 2000 Server, Lotus Notes and common office applications;
- Ability to manage WAN/LAN, structured cabling, backup/ recovery, PCs, printers, peripherals and software;
- Must have a degree in information technology or related field;
- Microsoft Certified Professional and/or Notes Administrator would be preferred

The applicants must have strong leadership abilities and have excellent oral and written English communication skills.

Send your curriculum vitae, covered by an application letter clearly describing your suitability for the position, by 1 July 2002 to:

GHD, 2/F 111 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, Makati City or e-mail us at Josephine_Lubo@ghd.com.au

www.ghd.com.au

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**The best companies need the best people.**
JOB ONLINE
visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

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## Puro Carne International, Inc.
A distributor of imported premium meat products and gourmet food specialist, urgently needs:

# ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

**Main Job Responsibilities:**
- To develop new accounts through marketing activities and product introduction
- To sustain and grow existing accounts through effective client relations
- To implement marketing and sales strategies towards achievement of goals
- To provide after-sales service to customers

**Qualifications:**
- Female, not more than 35 years old
- Preferably college graduate and with experience in selling consumer products
- Pleasing personality with good command of English
- Experience in selling to restaurants, hotels and supermarkets

We offer opportunities for career advancement as well as performance -- related and results driven remuneration. Compensation package of salary, commission, incentives, and other privileges.

Please e-mail us your Resumé with recent photo at sales@purocarne.com or hanzel@philonline.com or fax at 889-2573.

2900 Faraday Street
corner South Superhighway, Makati City
Tel. No. 889-2575 or 889-2573 (Hazel)

## Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation, Inc.

*We are a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry affiliated with Habitat for Humanity International and we are searching for experienced and qualified candidates with the heart and sense of mission for the following positions:*

**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR (Code: RDD)**

*provides over-all direction and management of resource development programs and activities by conceptualizing, implementing and evaluating them towards the attainment of Habitat's goals.*
- Bachelor's degree in management, marketing or communications, preferably with post-graduate degree or units, between the ages of 35-45
- At least 5 years progressive experience in a management position in fund-raising, resource mobilization and/or marketing, or communications in a non-profit organization
- Fund-raising experience is a must
- Exceptional organizational and communication skills; very strong PR with extensive networks in corporations, foundations and churches; willing to meet people from all walks of life; willing and able to travel as needed.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR (Code: FD)**

*provides over-all direction and management of the Finance department's activities, including accounting, financial analysis and reporting, funding and budgeting and audit functions in the organization.*
- CPA, graduate studies an advantage, between the ages of 35-45
- At least 10 years progressive experience in finance and accounting, at least 5 years in senior management position; preferably with experience with a non-profit organization
- Wide exposure to accounting software, especially QuickBooks or Sun Systems; preferably with experience in fund accounting and consolidation of reports with at least 40 cost centers; hands-on computer literacy
- Excellent leadership, communication, interpersonal and management skills; willing to travel and work long hours

**AFFILIATE DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS (Code: ADO)**

*facilitates the organization and development of Habitat affiliates in NCR & Mindanao towards being sustainable organizations implementing housing programs grounded on Habitat's principles. Successful candidates will be based in Metro Manila and Davao.*
- Graduate of social work, social development, or related fields, with at least 2 years supervisory experience in a non-profit organization; between the ages of 25-35
- At least 2 years experience in organizational development project development, community organizing and network-building, preferably in the field of urban planning and development
- Good communication, negotiation and PR skills

**TRAINING COORDINATOR - Visayas/Mindanao (Code: TC)**

*assists in planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating Habitat's training, education and development programs and projects. Successful candidate will be based in Davao.*
- Graduate of HR-related course (Behavioral Science, Psychology, HR Management) or Business Administration; graduate studies an advantage; between the ages of 25-35
- At least 3 years experience in training and education with a medium-sized organization; preferably with experience in non-profit organization and multi-cultural environment
- Knowledge and experience in training needs assessment; participatory working and training methods, adult education principles, facilitation and presentation skills, technical writing and budgeting skills; with hands-on computer proficiency

Qualified candidates should send their application and updated resumé no later than July 15, 2002 to:

The Human Resources Manager
152 Lopez-Rizal St., Brgy. Highway Hills, 1550 Mandaluyong City
(Please indicate CODE)
E-mail: HR@habitat.org.ph

## CGFNS NURSES FOR THE U.S. !!!!

**NCLEX NOT REQUIRED**
**CAN BE TAKEN IN THE U.S. WHILE WORKING !!!!**

**★ FIVE STAR QUALITY CARE, INC.**

**A long-term care company based in Newton, Massachusetts is still in need of several experienced nurses for its skilled nursing facilities across the United States.**

**NO COST TO NURSES**
**ALL FEES WILL BE PAID BY THE EMPLOYER**

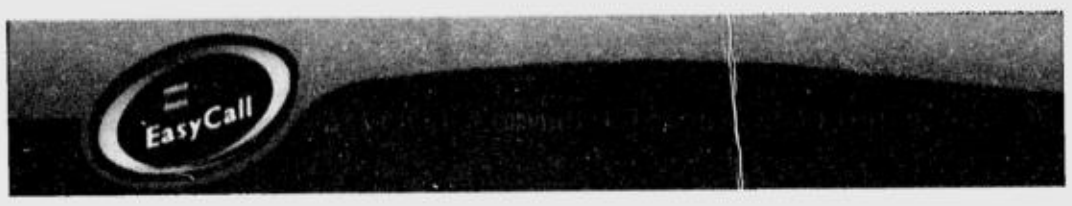
- **FREE** Airline Ticket to the U.S.
- **FREE** assistance in RN Licensure Exams upon arrival in the U.S.
- Housing and Food Allowance will be provided for the first three months

Interviews will be conducted by the company's hiring officers on the following dates:

July 4 and 5, 2002, 9:00 A.M.
at the **LBP SERVICE CORPORATION**, 9/F Century Tower
100 Tordesillas cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 753-1625 / Fax No. 817-7872 ( Look for Chinky or Valerie )
Email: lbpsc@mozcom.com or Fumarlaw@sbcglobal.net (US)

**FREE** Seminar will be conducted by Atty. Cesar R. Fumar, a San Francisco-based Immigration Lawyer.

**"WE ARE NOT A RECRUITMENT AGENCY"**




**Easycall Communications Philippines, Inc., a world class business solutions company providing domestic and global markets with cost-effective technology, connectivity, and customer interaction solutions, is aggressively seeking highly qualified personnel to immediately occupy the following positions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Job Title** | ACCOUNT MANAGER |
| **Desired Requirements:** | College graduate, major in Marketing. Has a minimum of 3 years work experience in a Customer Service-oriented company managing Corporate Accounts. Has excellent people-skills and has managed relationships with Foreign Clients. |
| **Job Title** | FINANCIAL ANALYST |
| **Desired Requirements:** | College graduate and passed the CPA board exam. Minimum of 3 years of relevant accounting or budget work experience and/or 1 - 2 years of Corporate Finance work experience. Technically proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word and Powerpoint. Good communications, presentation and inter-personal skills. |
| **Job Title** | TEAM SUPERVISOR |
| **Desired Requirements:** | College graduate preferably with Marketing units. Mastery of the English language with at least 2 years experience in handling people in telemarketing or sales. Must be results-driven. |
| **Job Title** | TELEMARKETING SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE |
| **Desired Requirements:** | College graduate with a good command of written and spoken English. Has a cheerful and vibrant work attitude. Telemarketing or sales experience is an advantage. |
| **Job Title** | TRAINING OFFICER |
| **Desired Requirements:** | College graduate with teaching or training background,preferably with experience in developing, conducting and evaluating training programs in a call center services environment. Must possess excellent presentation, inter-personal and communications skill. |
| **Job Title** | QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER |
| **Desired Requirements:** | College graduate and able to work on multiple projects simultaneously. Must have conducted performance evaluation or quality assurance work experience in an off shore-call center environment. |

**CONTACT US AND SEND IN YOUR RESUME':**

Phone : 533-8001 locals 6801, 6802, and 6805
Fax : 5310370
Email : jsr@easycall.net.ph
Internet : www.tdgworld.com
Walk-In : **THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION**
RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
418 Arayat corner Libertad Streets, Mandaluyong City

## AJA REGISTRARS INC.

"GROW WITH THE PROFESSIONALS"

AUDITORS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Due to our continued growth and success in the Philippines we are looking to immediately recruit ambitious Filipino professionals to further expand our already substantial team of Quality, Environmental and Safety auditors. As a group, AJA are the fastest growing 3rd Party Certification Body in SE Asia and offer applicants the opportunity to accept positions that provide attractive salary and benefit packages, personal development programmes and job satisfaction.

Mandatory criteria for Auditor applicants are:
- Filipino National
- Aged 28-45
- Fluent in written and spoken English (other languages an advantage)
- A Degree in any Engineering discipline
- Minimum of 5 Years industrial/Commercial work experience in Manufacturing or Service environments
- At least 2 years work experience in Occupational Health and/or Safety
- Knowledge in ISO 9000 or ISO 14001 or QS-9000 will be an advantage
- Analytical mind within a self-disciplined team player
- Personable and presentable

Mandatory criteria for Business Development Officer are:
- Filipino National
- Aged 22-45
- Fluent in written and spoken English (other languages an advantage)
- Capable and competent in use of Microsoft programmes
- Minimum 2 years work experience in Business Development and /or Marketing
- Personable and presentable

Interested parties should apply, in the first instance, by sending detailed Career Summaries and Personal details on June 24-26 to:

Ms. Gloria de Guzman-Olaivar, Managing Director, AJA Registrars Inc.
7E Mapfre Asian Corporate Center, Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang, 1770 Muntinlupa City
Tel: 850 2040 / 850 2204 / 850 2208 / 850 2288

## A UNIQUE REQUIREMENT
## FOR A CHALLENGING RESPONSIBILITY IN SALES...

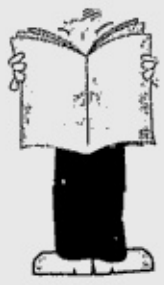
Our company is engaged in the busines of selling luxury power yachts catering to a certain lifestyle. We are looking for a very select individual who possess the qualities of integrity and professionalism that will play a major role in the development of this market.

- He/She must have extensive background in marketing and sales of products and services that cater to a similar quality and lifestyle strictly limited to a very exclusive segment of our market.
- He/She must have the personality and ability to have access to the very limited segment of prospective clients who are financially qualified and have the desire for this lifestyle.
- The candidate must be able to communicate fluently in English and the ability to speak any other language will be a great advantage.
- He/She must have had extensive travels abroad and should be competent enough to develop on his own initiative a business development plan, marketing and selling strategies..
- The successful candidate shall report directly to the Chairman.

Should you believe you have the qualifications and interest for this position you can submit your personal Biodata with 2x2 photo to either of the following addresses:

➢ **LEISURECRAFTS ASIA, INC.**
**Ground Floor, ENZO Building,**
**399 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City**
➢ **Email: exec_office@frigate.com.ph**

• All applications shall be handled in strict confidentiality •



**Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.**

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB ONLINE

**A Multinational Pharmaceutical Company is in search for qualified professionals to fill up the position of:**

## PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE

- ☑ Male or female, 20 to 27 years old
- ☑ College degree holder in the field of Science
- ☑ Must be computer literate
- ☑ Proficient in oral and written communication
- ☑ Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

*All interested applicants are requested to send their resumé, with a copy of transcript of records and 2x2 colored picture to:*

**ICN Philippines, Inc.**
W902-A Tektite Building, PSE Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

## TECHNICAL TRAINING ASST. MANAGER

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering or Behavioral Science/Psychology
- At least two years Asst. Manager experience or four years Supervisory experience in similar capacity
- Computer literate
- Excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Can design, develop and conduct training programs
- Male or Female
- Age limit is 35

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- At least 3-5 years similar experience preferably in a multinational company reporting to a senior executive
- Graduate of a 4-year course, preferably in Management or Administration
- Possesses leadership qualities and the ability to deal with all levels in the organization
- With pleasing personality and excellent communication skills
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 35

## HRD ASSISTANTS

- Will be assigned either in training or recruitment/background checking
- Graduates of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Business Administration
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Male or female, age limit is 24

## PLANNING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Management or Business Administration
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- With or without experience
- Female, age limit is 24

ISO 9002 SGS ISO 14001 SGS

*Fujitsu Computer Products is a leading manufacturer of hard disk drives and magneto-resistive heads. After almost seven years of commercial operations, we now have 6,800 employees. We were awarded by PEZA as Top Employer Hall of Fame by being Top Employer for the years 1997 to 1999. Successful candidates will be based in Canlubang, Laguna. Shuttle buses to and from the site are available even for Metro Manila residents. Please send your resumes to: The Assistant Vice President, HRD & General Affairs Department, Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines, SEPZ, Carmelray Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, or email to: lgarcia@fcpp.fujitsu.com or you may also apply personally in business attire, every M-W-F at 9 AM.*

---

**WebFocus** Solutions, Inc **A fast rising IT company is looking for the ff:**

## Account Executives

**Responsibilities:**

To offer website solutions to different businesses, and organizations

**Benefits:**

- 8,000 monthly allowance
- Sales commissions of at least 9,000 a month - can be a lot more!
- Opportunities to meet new people from various fields
- Personal growth and excitement in the field of IT

**Qualifications:**

- 21 to 28 years old, Male or female with a college degree
- Must have field-related sales experience
- Must be aggressive, self-driven, and hardworking
- Good communication skills
- Possesses excellent time-management skills
- Responsible and of good moral character
- Pleasing looks and personality
- Enjoys doing fieldwork

## Web Developer

**Responsibilities:**

To develop websites as required by clients

**Benefits:**

- Above average package with profit sharing
- Plenty of opportunities for growth and learning

**Qualifications:**

- Male or female, 21 to 29 years old
- Graduate of a BS Computer Science or related course
- Must have advanced skills in Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Photoshop, Flash, and ASP
- Hardworking, efficient, and of good moral character

Interested Applicants **must submit** their **photo** and **resumé** thru any of the following:

- Email at **hrd@webfocus.ph**
- Mail to 410 C Del Motne Ave., Quezon City (Attn: Vicky Colargo)

---

**A leading Company in Alternative and Integrative Medicine With affiliates in US and Germany Is in need of**

## MEDICAL DOCTOR

To undergo intensive training in modern preventive and alternative medicine discipline and protocol in the fields of Homeopathy, Homotoxicology, Electro Acupuncture, Chelation Therapy, Ozone Therapy, Bio Oxidative Therapy, Neural Therapy and Bio Acupuncture.

**Send or Fax your Resumé at No. 1691 Ma. Orosa Street, Malate, Manila. Telefax No. 522-5823; 834-2766. Only qualified applicants will be entertained.**

**"Saving Lives of People thru Quality Practice"**

---

**QUALITREADERS, INC.**
**RECAPPING COMPANY**

*One of the leading recapping plant is URGENTLY in need of a top grade and hardworking professionals to immediately fill up the following positions for expansion*

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Male or Female, 25 years old & above, graduate of any Business course. A person who is dynamic, articulate, a self starter & mature individual. Experience is an added advantage.

## SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Male or Female, 23 years old & above, with dynamic Character, energetic, and with pleasing personality. Experience is an advantage. A college level but can communicate well verbally and in writing.

*If you are the applicants we are looking for COME & Apply with your recent resumé, and scholastic records at 188 Reparo St., Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City and look for the Personnel Officer* ***Ms. EUNICE S. YAP.***

---

## CUSTOMER SUPPORT EXECUTIVE

Email your resumé with a passport size picture to:

Fatima Garcia
Office Administrator
fatima.garcia@mnl.galileo.com

All applications must be received not later than 28 June 2002.

Qualifications:

- At least 3 years of experience in the travel industry with thorough understanding of airline and travel agency operations.
- Expertise with CRS and/or airline systems.
- Understanding of Fare computation an advantage.
- Knowledge of Windows and MS office applications required.
- Excellent communication skills are required.
- Must be mature, reliable, cheerful, organized, responsible person with a positive attitude.

GALILEO ASIA, LLC

---

## Senior VB6-SQL Server 2000 developers

Minimum of 3 years working experience on N-tier/ enterprise platforms in a team environment.
Must be proficient with ADO, T-SQL, COM+, Windows 2000, Crystal reports, ASP, .NET experience a plus

Qualified candidates with insurance industry experience highly preferred.

Please email resumés to
**vbsql2K@hotmail.com** or send to

**Philippine Insurance Holding Company**
**Penthouse, Athenaeum Building**
**160 L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City**

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## MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

- ☒ Female, 20-28 years old, single
- ☒ B.S. Commerce graduate or any four-year course
- ☒ Experienced in the MS Office - must know Word & Excel
- ☒ With or without working experience

## IMPORT ASSISTANT

- ☒ Female, 20-28 years old, single, B.S. Customs Administration or college graduate who is efficient in Mathematics, computer literate
- ☒ With experience handling L/C documentation & interfacing with Bank & Foreign Suppliers
- ☒ Knowledge of computing duties & taxes and bank charges

Knowledge of Chinese Language is a definite advantage.

**Interest Applicants may call:**
**Tel. Nos. 363-7514 / 364-1081**

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## INFORMATION OFFICER

PARTNERSHIP FOR CLEAN AIR

The Partnership for Clean Air is an ADB-funded multi-sectoral coalition of stakeholders working together to clean the air. The Partnership needs an experienced Information Officer to work full-time on web-content, IEC, publicity and press relations. He/she will be working closely with the Executive Director in the development and implementation of awareness raising programs. Candidates should have at least five (5) years experience in a related/similar job.

Interested applicants please send your application and resumé: by email to partnership@pacific.net.ph; by mail to Partnership for Clean Air, Penthouse A, JMT Corporate Condominium, #27 ADB Avenue, Pasig City. Visit our website, www.hangin.org to know more about the organization.

Save the Air! Partnership for Clean Air

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## THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR:

## 1 (One) Bookkeeper

**Qualifications:**

- Accounting Graduate, 24-33 years old
- Must be computer literate, preferably knowledgeable in ACCPAC
- With at least 3 years of bookkeeping experience in a corporate setting

In addition, candidates must have the following qualities:

- Hardworking, willing to work extended hours, with good follow-through and initiative
- Able to fulfill his/her responsibilities within the prescribed time and with minimal supervision
- Honest and meticulous with his/her work

Applicants may either fax their resumé to 723-1946 or bring their resumé to EMME Group of Companies, 8/F State Finance Center II (beside POEA), Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, and look for Judy Melitante. All resumés must be in on or before July 1, Monday.

---

CEAE Center for Environmental Awareness and Education

Into Environment? Into Education? If you know something about one or, even better, both... we want you!

The **CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION** is looking for the following:

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
## RESEARCHER/WRITER
## PROJECT COORDINATOR FOR TRAINING

**Requirements**: Bachelor's degree holder in education, communications or marketing; good organizational and planning capability; excellent in written and verbal communications; thorough understanding of the environment; Master's degree and experience in NGO an advantage.

Applicants must send their resumé with cover letter indicating desired position, via e-mail to info@ceae.org or snail-mail to Unit 141 Virra Condominium, 500 P. Burgos St., Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati City 1209 on or before **July 3, 2002.**

---

**MOF COMPANY, INC.**, a leading transport service company engaged in general shipping operations, is URGENTLY in need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professionals to occupy the following position:

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Computer literate on various computer applications
- Good command, both oral and written, of English language
- Female, preferably single and with pleasing personality
- At least 25 years old but not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4 years business course from a reputable College or University
- With at least 3 years work experience as Executive Secretary
- Preferably a resident of Pasay or nearby area
- Can work under pressure and longer period of time
- Salary commensurate to qualifications

(Previous Applicants Need Not Apply)
Qualified applicants are requested to personally handcarry their resumé with 2x2 photo and proof of records not later than June 28, 2002 at:

**MOF COMPANY, INC.**
CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
(Please look for Butch/Lanie-Personnel Dept.)
or send an e-mail thru mof@skyinet.net
Applicants will be entertained from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tel. Nos. 551-7530/831-8721 loc. 505

GC Asia Dental invites applicants for

## GS Sales Manager for the Phils.

Responsibilities:

1. Planning, organizing and leading all the activities in the Philippine market and be responsible for results
2. Develop short and long-term marketing and sales plans for the GC product range
3. Coordinate with dealers and customers

Requirements:

1. Excellent communication skills; computer literate
2. Assertive, analytical and results-oriented
3. An experience in the dental industry is an advantage
4. Basic managerial skills and experience

Qualified and interested applicants, please e-mail application letter and brief resumé to betsydoc@manila-online.net or fax to 934-0014.

# VENDO

## SALES OPERATIONS

**(CARBONATED AND NON-CARBONATED FRUIT JUICE AND BEVERAGES)**

Candidate should have at least 3-4 years work experience in the deployment and selling operations of fruit juice and beverage dispensers in various educational institutions and end-users.

- 25-35 years old
- Male, college graduate
- With excellent communication and negotiation skills
- Familiar with canteen operators of leading colleges and universities

**Other positions available**

## ACCOUNTING MANAGER
## ENCODER

- Female, college graduate of a reputable university
- Must have related work experience
- Preferably with Chinese communication skills

All interested applicants may apply personally at:

**Foodworld Mfg. Corporation**
292-294 8th Avenue (East) corner 10th Street
Grace Park, Kalookan City

(Between 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN only)

* Accounting Services * Corporate & Tax Services * Business Advisory *

## MANILA CONSULTING

*better*
Your alternative for

fast, reliable and cost effective

## ACCOUNTING SERVICES

call or send us a message. . we will respond to your needs

*Landline* 63 (2) 8302033
*Facsimile* 63 (2) 8190485
*Email* accountant@manilaconsulting.com

*Corporate Address*
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center
141 Valero St. corner Sedeño
Salcedo Village, Makati City

* Accounting Services * Corporate & Tax Services * Business Advisory *

* Accounting Services * Corporate & Tax Services * Business Advisory *

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A multi-million manufacturing company is in need of qualified applicant for the position of

# EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

for the Office of the Chairman/ President with the following qualifications:

- Must be a graduate of any four year course preferably a BS Secretarial Science
- Must have sufficient knowledge in steno/ shorthand and computer operations
- Must have good oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 picture on or before June 28, 2002 at P.O. Box 3321.

**EASTERN DRAGON MARKETING**, a leading importer and distributor of Hot and Cold Water Dispenser is in need of the following:

## SALES EXECUTIVE

- Male/Female
- 1 to 2 years related experience in selling
- Good in written and oral communication
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Must have a high level of confidence and a great deal of passion for success and career growth
- Graduate of Marketing or any business course

**COMPENSATION**
- Basic salary
- Attractive commission per sale

## TELEMARKETER

- Female
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Good in communication skills
- Can work with minimum supervision
- 1 year experience in telemarketing

**COMPENSATION**
- Basic salary

Interested applicants may submit their resumé, transcript of records with 2x2 photo (Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only) at:

**EASTERN DRAGON MARKETING**
#5 Esperanza St., Don Pedro Village
Marulas, Valenzuela City
Tel. No. 277-6140 Fax No. 432-1424
or email at: gtomktg@pacific.net.ph

**Beluso-Soriano Group of Co.**

## 2 Weeks Grand Job Hiring!!!

*In cooperation of AVP's,Managers and company staff s*

**50 Ex-OFW from Taiwan, Saudi, Middle East, Japan, Hongkong, US, etc. recently arrived (Sept. 2001-May 2002) are welcome to apply.**

**Available Positions:**

*Junior Managers, Account Managers,*
*Management Trainees, Account Executives, company staffs, etc,*

**73 GRADUATES OF:PT,OT,RT,,Nursing & any MEDICAL courses**
**68 GRADUATES OF:IE,ECE,EE,ME,Archi,ComEng,ComSci,etc.**
**53 GRADUATES OF:Commerce,LLB,HRM,Tourism,Educ & BScourses**

Male / Female, 19-45 years old, licensed or non-licensed

*Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply!!!*

All interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resumé, original credentials and 2x2 photo on June 24 to July 6, 2002 in proper business attire at:

**Office of the Director**

Suite 003, Ground Flr., Building #235 EDSA EXT'N PASAY CITY
Walking distance from MRT Taft along EDSA, going to Roxas Blvd., near Savers Square Dept.Store, beside Allied Bank & Jianshe)

**Look for: Mr. Alex ,PTRP/GSM**

*Note:Staple this ad to your resume!!!*

Store Specialists, Inc.

## Technical Services Manager

- Preferably female; between 27-35 years old
- Must be a licensed Mechanical Engineer
- Must have at least three (3) years work experience in handling renovation works including bidding and evaluation, program scheduling, inspection and quality control
- Must be knowledgeable in engineering work such as electrical, plumbing and fire protection
- Must be able to do mechanical designs using different systems
- Must be computer literate
- Must have excellent oral and written communications skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2x2 PHOTO TO:

**STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.**
Human Resources Management Division
(c/o Executive Administration)
cspagkalinawan@rgoc.com.ph
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

*Belonging to a highly diversified group, our company is in urgent need of young professionals to fit the following key positions:*

**BRANCH MANAGERS**
- Male or female
- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With at least 2 years Marketing experience and knowledge of branch operations
- With good oral and written communication skills

**ACCOUNT OFFICERS**
- Male or female
- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of Business related course
- With at least 1 year experience as Account Officer for Commercial and Consumer Loans
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit accounts
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

**CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSTS./TELLER**
- Male or female
- Between 21 to 25 years old
- Graduate of Business related course
- Experience in Tellering/New Accounts is an advantage
- Computer literate
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

**TECHNICAL SPECIALIST**
- Male, between 20-26 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science/Computer Engineering/ECE
- With at least 2 years experience preferably from an IT Firm or Banks
- Familiar with Networking, CISCO Routers, Windows NT, Datacom, MS Exchange, SCO Unix
- AS/400 or DATABASE knowledge is an advantage

**AUDIT ASSISTANTS**
- Male or female
- Between 22-25 years old
- Graduate of Accounting
- With at least 1 year experience preferably from an Audit Firm or Banks
- Computer literate
- With good oral and written communication skills

**SALES & SERVICE OFFICERS**
- Male or female
- Between 24-28 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- CPA an advantage
- 3 to 5 years experience in new accounts, tellering, bookkeeping and supervision

**MARKETING ASSISTANTS**
- Male or female
- Between 22-27 years old
- Graduate of Business related course
- Should have strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit accounts
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

**CLEARING ASSISTANTS**
- Male or female
- Between 21 to 26 years old
- Graduate of Business related course
- Banking experience in Cash and Clearing is advantage
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing and service-oriented

**OPERATIONS SPECIALIST**
- Male, between 20-24 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or any related course
- With at least 1 year experience
- With good oral and written communication skills

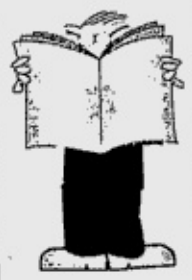
**ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS**
- Male or female
- Between 22-25 years old
- Graduate of Accounting
- With at least 1 year experience
- Computer literate
- With good oral and written communication skills

*Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resumé, and Transcript of Records to:*

Human Resources Department
E-mail: lance_evangelista@yahoo.com

Only qualified applicants will be notified.

**Where you find the best.**



JOB MARKET

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

# MMPI

MEGA MAGAZINES & PUBLICATIONS, INC.

**BE PART OF OUR DYNAMIC AND EXPANDING TEAM!!!** Exciting challenges and career success await you by joining Mega Magazines & Publications, Inc. We are currently in need of professionals with the following qualifications who will fill up these positions.

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR, BLUPRINT
- At least 28 years old
- Graduate of Architecture or other related courses
- 1-2 years experience in editorial work

## GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
- Graduate of Fine Arts, Major in Advertising
- 2-3 years experience in print design
- Proficient in QuarkExpress or Freehand (Mac-based)

## EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS
- Graduate of Journalism or other related courses
- At least 2 years experience in editorial work
- Excellent editing and writing skills

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- Graduate of Marketing, MassComm, or related courses
- Outstanding interpersonal, oral communications, and presentation skills

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
- Graduate of any four-year business course
- Preferably with experience in office management

## ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- At least 28 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 3 years experience general accounting

## EVENTS COORDINATORS
- Graduate of Marketing, MassComm, or related courses
- Experience conceptualizing and organizing events
- Outstanding interpersonal skills

## HR OFFICERS
- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Psychology or other related courses
- At least 2 years experience in HR Operations

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- 25 to 35 years old
- At least 2 years experience in office management
- With proven leadership and people mgt skills
- Proficient in MSWord, Excel, PowerPoint

## PHOTO EDITORS
- Graduate of Fine Arts or other related courses
- Preferably with experience in architectural photography

*Interested parties may hand carry or mail their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:*

*The Human Resources Manager*
***Mega Magazines & Publications, Inc.***
*18th Floor, Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City*

# Enhance the BOS in You!

## In a gathering of Entrepreneurs like never seen before!

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SESSION

On Thursday, the **4th of July 2002, at Club Filipino, Greenhills from 5 til 9 in the evening**, celebrate the beginning of your independence from having a boss and tiresome 9 to 5 routine. Join us in one of a kind gathering, the New Deal of the Millennium... a new and profitable business deal where you can be the BOSS this time around.

If you

- ✓ are determined to succeed
- ✓ have strong and convincing communication skills
- ✓ have the ability to motivate people into giving top performance
- ✓ have the know how to plan and implement effective marketing strategies
- ✓ have the entrepreneural spirit to sustain a dynamic organization

then you are a perfect candidate for what we have in mind. We are looking for a new breed of young and active entrepreneurs, businessmen and other professionals who will get to handle some of our premier projects to date like Caliraya Springs in Lake Caliraya, the Mulligans Golf Hotel in Boracay, Camp John Hay in Baguio, Canyon Woods and Splendido in Tagaytay.

To reserve a seat, come for interview starting June 24 to 29 (Monday to Saturday) from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the address below, or call or e-mail us for registration.

Mark the date. This could make **MILLIONS** for you.

**BOOTS C. AQUINO**
**Fil-Estate Realty Corporation**
Mezzanine Floor, Renaissance Tower F, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 636-1673 • Cell No. (0917) 817-4547 • E-mail at bootsaquino@yahoo.com

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THE HERITAGE HOTEL
MANILA

Join a hotel chain that values individualism.

The Heritage Hotel Manila is managed by the Singapore-based Millennium and Copthorne International Limited. Ranked as Asia's largest hotel group, its London-based subsidiaries Millennium and Copthorne Hotels plc, has, under its division, Millennium and Copthorne Hotels and Resorts, a stable of 88 hotels in 15 countries. Sixteen of these hotels are managed by sister subsidiary company, City E-Solutions Limited (CES).

We are now inviting dynamic and dedicated individuals to apply for the position of:

**MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**

Requirements:
- Has a degree in Mass Communications, Journalism or any related course from a reputable school
- With at least three (3) years experience in the same position
- Proficient in written and oral communications
- Strong leadership and managerial skills
- Must posses a pleasing personality
- Preferably with press contacts
- Team player, resourceful and creative

Compensation package will commensurate according to the candidate's overall qualification and experience.

Interested parties must submit their application letters, resumé (indicating their expected remuneration package) and 2"x2" photo no later than 21 June 2002

The General Manager
The Heritage Hotel Manila
Roxas Boulevard corner EDSA, Pasay City,
Metro Manila, 1300 Philippines
Telephone: (632) 854 8888 Facsimile: (632) 854 8833
E-mail: execoffice@heritagehotelmanila.com

MANAGED BY THE MILLENNIUM & COPTHORNE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

---

*A power generation company is in need of the following:*

**RESULTS ENGINEER (code: RE#01)**
*Shall supervise the performance monitoring and engineering test functions of all plant equipment..*
- Licensed Mechanical, Electrical or Marine Engineer;
- 27-40 yrs. old
- 3 years supervisory experience in Medium Speed Diesel Engine Operation and Maintenance.
- Strong technical skills in power plant operating processes; data gathering and evaluation of plant equipment operating performance, preparation of reports and operating & test procedure.
- Computer literate (Microsoft Office, database software)
- Good communication, interpersonal and analytical skills

**(2) PLANT MECHANICS (code: PM#01)**
*Shall perform preventive and corrective maintenance of all mechanical equipment, including maintenance work orders.*
- Mechanical, Marine or Trade graduate preferably Certified Plant Mechanic or equivalent
- 24 – 35 yrs old
- At least 2 years related work experience preferably in diesel power plant
- Knowledgeable in troubleshooting, repair of automatic diesel engines & auxiliary equipment
- Good communication & analytical skills.
- With working knowledge in standard operating procedures in dismantling/assembling engine components and auxiliary equipment of diesel power plant

**MACHINE SHOP & RECONDITIONING MECHANIC (code: MSRM#01)**
*Shall perform welding and machining jobs in any equipment/machines, prepare, secure and maintain welding tools & equipment, and perform simple fixtures fabrication.*
- Mechanical, Marine Engineering or Trade graduate preferably Certified Plant Mechanic, Certified Welder or equivalent
- 24 – 35 yrs old
- Certified welder ; At least 2 years experience in similar capacity
- Knowledgeable in all welding works, operations of machine shop equipment and fabrication jobs.
- Good communication & analytical skills

**ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION SPECIALIST (code: EIS#01)**
*Shall perform preventive and corrective maintenance of all electrical, instrumentation and controls equipment, including maintenance work orders.*
- Licensed Electrical, Electronics Engineer or Engineering Technology or equivalent
- 24- 35 yrs old ; At least 3 years related experience
- Good working knowledge with blueprints, schematics and instruction manuals; Familiar with Phil. Electrical Code
- Good knowledge in electrical, instrumentation, control equipment, logic operations, specifications of operating values, designs and trend out service life.
- Computer literate (MS Office)

*Please send application letter with detailed resume, photographs and credentials no later than* ***July 1, 2002.***

**Human Resources Department**
**P.O. Box No. 1746**
**Makati City**

Note: Indicate outside the envelope position code #.

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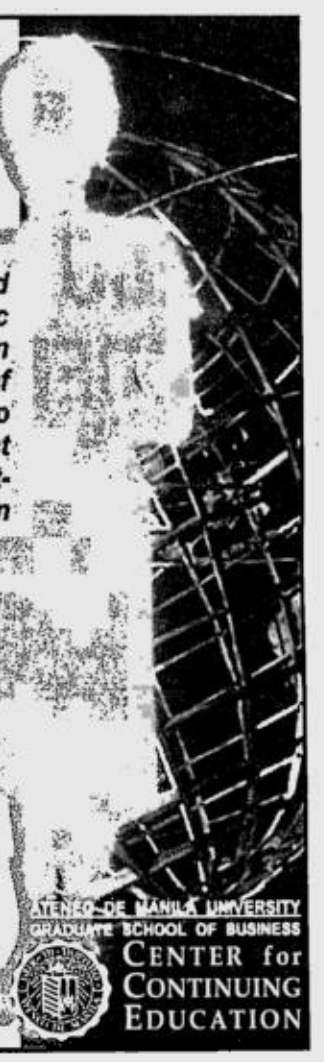
## Ateneo CCE and You: Up to Speed with Global Competitivenes



**Attention: College Students**

*In order to become globally competitive, you need to keep up with the rapid changes of a dynamic work world. The Center for Continuing Education (CCE), Ateneo's direct link to the world of business, finance and technology can help jumpstart your career in the emerging Contact Center Industry by getting you trained as a part-time Telemarketing Staff. You can earn even before you graduate.*

- *Articulate in Engli*
- *Have a pleasant vo*
- *People-oriented*
- *Computer-proficie[illegible] typist*
- *at least 25 wpm*

Please come to CCE with your updated résumé, latest scholastic records and recent photo.

3/F Ateneo Professional Schools
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# OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

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sunday INQUIRER magazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

June 23, 2002

*Just when you think he's lying low, the multi-awarded actor-director signs on for a TV soap. The secret to his success? A professional attitude, and remembering that 'it's just a job'*

Eddie Garcia

# Getting Better with Age

*By Cora Llamas*
*Photograph by Romy Homillada*

I CAME to the photo shoot a full 30 minutes before the actual call time in costume, the business suit typically worn by the tycoon character he's playing on GMA-7's new soap. Not a hair or button was out of place. After a few gracious greetings that reminded you of a more chivalrous era when gentlemen accorded everyone their proper respect, he was off to the make-up room. His personal aides and some of the network people followed him, asking if he wanted to have his dinner. "No," this actor-director quietly shook his head. "Let's finish the interview first."

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## Eddie Garcia

...from page 1

It was my first live introduction to Eddie Garcia, the veteran star with 53 years in the business and about 100 films to his name as an actor and 30 more as a director. Through several decades, his name has become synonymous with quality films. He has played every role imaginable, from tyrants to tycoons, cops to criminals, upright public servant to the devil himself. Action hero, dastardly villain, comic relief, rotten jailbird, conflicted family man, questioning priest, millionaire playboy, closet queen, stalwart pillar of society—Eddie Garcia has played them all.

After three Best Actor Awards, five more for Best Supporting Actor and five Best Director Awards, Garcia has been elevated to the Hall of Fame in the last two categories. The Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) also awarded him Best Director twice for *"Magdusa Ka"* and *"Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig?"*

No doubt about it. Garcia's enduring, highly acclaimed career is probably one that many actors half his age would envy.

A few minutes with the celebrity would, however, immediately pull you back to earth. The actor makes no sainted references to any school of acting or directing. He doesn't speak of his gift or the movie industry with any mystical allusions to the Higher Purpose of Film. He doesn't even collect photographs, posters, or programs of those hundred or so films he has made, if only for posterity's sake. To him, acting —and directing—is just a job. And that, he says, with just a hint of that wicked smile that defines him as a villain onscreen, is the secret of his long and stable career.

"There's nothing high-falutin' about it," he says. "After I finish a project, I forget about it. I don't have VHS tapes or photos of my movies. *Kasi para sa akin, nakaraan na iyan* (For me, it's all in the past)."

His next analogy takes away some of the glamor of the celluloid world. "Take for example a carpenter. He gets contracted to do a table and he does it well In the end *makinis at maganda* (it's finely made). People who see it say, *'Sino ang gumawa niyan? Magpapagawa ako sa kanya* (Who made that? I'll ask him to make me one as well).

"In the same way, moviemaking is hard work. Whatever you do, whatever is offered you, you do to the best of your abilities. The viewing and paying public is very important and should get their two cents' worth. Besides, when you do a film well, that's the best recommendation for your next project.

"An actor never stops learning. You don't sit on your laurels."

Garcia certainly doesn't. Half a century into his career and the awards keep on coming. Only a couple of years ago, he won his first Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino award for his brooding, brutal prison inmate role in "Death Row." Just recently, *"Abakada...Ina,"* the movie he helmed about an illiterate mother, bagged him another Best Director Award; the movie also won FAP's Best Film Award.

Professionalism. Punctuality. Discipline. Clean living. These are the bywords and standards he's lived by for 50 years in an industry characterized by scandals, rumors, and feuds. Colleagues and directors attest to the fact that he's the first to report on the set, his lines memorized. His despicable onscreen villain characterizations notwithstanding, he is also reputed to be the easiest man on the set to get along with. Throughout the decades, no producer, director, or fellow actor has emerged, guns blazing, to declare Garcia an enemy. The guy doesn't demand star treatment, is always polite to his fans, and friendly to the film crew.

The production people of *"Kung Mawawala Ka,"* the nightly soap he appears in, could only name one incident when the star ALMOST lost his cool. To prepare for the soap, Garcia has made it a habit to ask for his script days before the actual shooting sked. At one point, a hapless staff member gave him the shooting script minutes before shooting, just as soon as he walked into the set. Garcia was visibly upset. But without losing his demeanor or his cool, or even raising his voice, he simply asked the frightened staff one question, "Do you expect me to memorize this NOW, just when taping is about to begin?"

Another star would have walked away, steaming in self-righteous indignation. Garcia calmed down, took the script, learned his lines, and performed on the set, business as usual.

As for his private life, Garcia is happy to keep it private. Common showbiz knowledge says he has been married, has children and grandchildren. Anything else — from passionate affairs to long-term relationships — remains out-of-sight.

Even his age remains a mystery. Garcia's healthy, muscular physique easily makes him look like a grand, handsome elderly man from his 60s to 70s, casting doubt on one film almanac's report that he was born in 1920.

"I've never done anything worthwhile for a tabloid to write about," he confirms. "Besides, the scandals won't help the box-office any. For example, if I have five wives, how will that help? The religious people may not even endorse my movies." Pressed further about some stars who do use the grapevine to fuel their careers and box-office receipts, Garcia characteristically shrugs, "*Kanya-kanyang* trip *iyan. Ang* trip *ko, huwag masangkot sa* controversy (Different strokes for different folks. I'd rather avoid controversy)."

Call it old-fashioned, but some of his principles do hearken back to an older, cleaner type of moviemaking. In the 1950s, major studios like Sampaguita and LVN ruled the corridors of power. Their stable of stars had to live up to certain standards and requirements.

"All the stars were under contract," Garcia recalls. "They had to keep their private lives — family quarrels, marital problems — away from the public. The stars also had to be punctual. If you report late for a shooting, *ikakaltas sa kikitain mo iyan* (you were fined)." Nobody was exempt, not even the popular actors who brought in the hordes of fans to the theaters.

These days, Garcia has his own standards in choosing from among the dozens of projects offered to him regularly. (In one year, he did 23 films.) His criteria range from the quality of the material, to its appeal to the paying public and the director. These were some of the reasons he decided to appear on TV on a nightly soap opera after a long hiatus.

One of the bonuses is working again with director Joel Lamangan whom Garcia calls a topnotch director. They had collaborated previously in the highly acclaimed "Death Row." "Joel works hard, he knows what he wants and does not waste time. Some directors dilly-dally and don't get their job done; *mabagal sila* and *hindi pa* prepared when they come to the set. But Joel does his homework and knows what he wants when he arrives on the set."

In GMA-7's *"Kung Mawawala Ka,"* Garcia plays a shipping magnate and a governor who also happens to be husband to three wives (Hilda Koronel, Liza Lorena, Gloria Diaz) and father to three families. Naturally, most of the kids are ganging up on their father, wanting to take over the throne.

"He has some grey areas," he says of his character Gov. Leonardo Montemayor. "He rules the province with a firm hand but with a heart. He takes good care of his family and they're well-provided for. But his children, like the characters played by Raymond Bagatsing and Sharmaine Arnaiz, have ambitions of their own. That's why his favorite is his youngest daughter, played by Sunshine Dizon. She's very kind and innocent, unlike her siblings who have their own hidden agendas."

This role of a corrupt but formidable politician who's more of a benevolent Mafia don than a public servant, should come as a second skin. At this point, however, with showbiz personalities entering the political fray, would he make this onscreen role real one day? "I've been asked to run for political office before; in fact, several times," he reveals, then his voice trails off, "but as I said...no, no, no, no." He sighs then grins, "It's not my cup of tea. I like a peaceful life. *Ayoko nang guluhin ang buhay ko.*"

With co-stars Alessandra de Rossi, Liza Lorena, Princess Punzalan and Raymond Bagatsing in *"Kung Mawawala Ka"*

**Action hero, dastardly villain—he's played them all**

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**The Cover Image** The enduring Eddie Garcia takes on yet another role
*Photograph by Romy Hamillado*

**Radio People Please**

I religiously buy the INQUIRER every Sunday because I love reading SIM. Please feature DJs or radio personalities whom, I believe, have redefined radio entertainment. I think DJs Chico and Delamar were able to transcend radio entertainment and became something exquisitely funny and classy.

**LUCAS**
**dimasalang_lucas@yahoo.com**

**Erratum:**

*Paolo Valenciano is one of two actors alternating in the lead role of Peter in "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and not an understudy (SIM, "Son Power," June 16, 2002). We regret the error.*—**Ed.**

**ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!**

**SIM** strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees — and to avoid an unnecessary trip! — please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

**Poetry**

## Bulalakaw

*alay sa sarili*

Matagal kitang hinintay
mula sa dilim at lumbay
ng hatinggabi

Handa ka na nga bang pumaindayog
sa susunod na cosmo?

Habang muli akong mabibihag
ng isang saglit mong kariktan

Hinahagkan-hagkan
sanlaksang pangarap.

**Marian Caampued**

**Poetry**

## Re: Gesundheit

*for Mookie*

Reading your letter,
I recall the poem
you recited to me
in the rain-soaked wind
by the belfry.

The bells sounded
what could pass
for music
as the grass bristled
like bodies.

As the monsoon circled
faster and faster above us,
laying waste water and song,

we transferred
by the red brick wall
where a bicycle leaned
for balance.

We spoke about
how faithfully
we could bring together
the life we live
and the life we imagine.

In the gathering dark,
a firefly swam
as our eyes beheld
small acts
of disappearance.

I wonder,
where did
our words go?

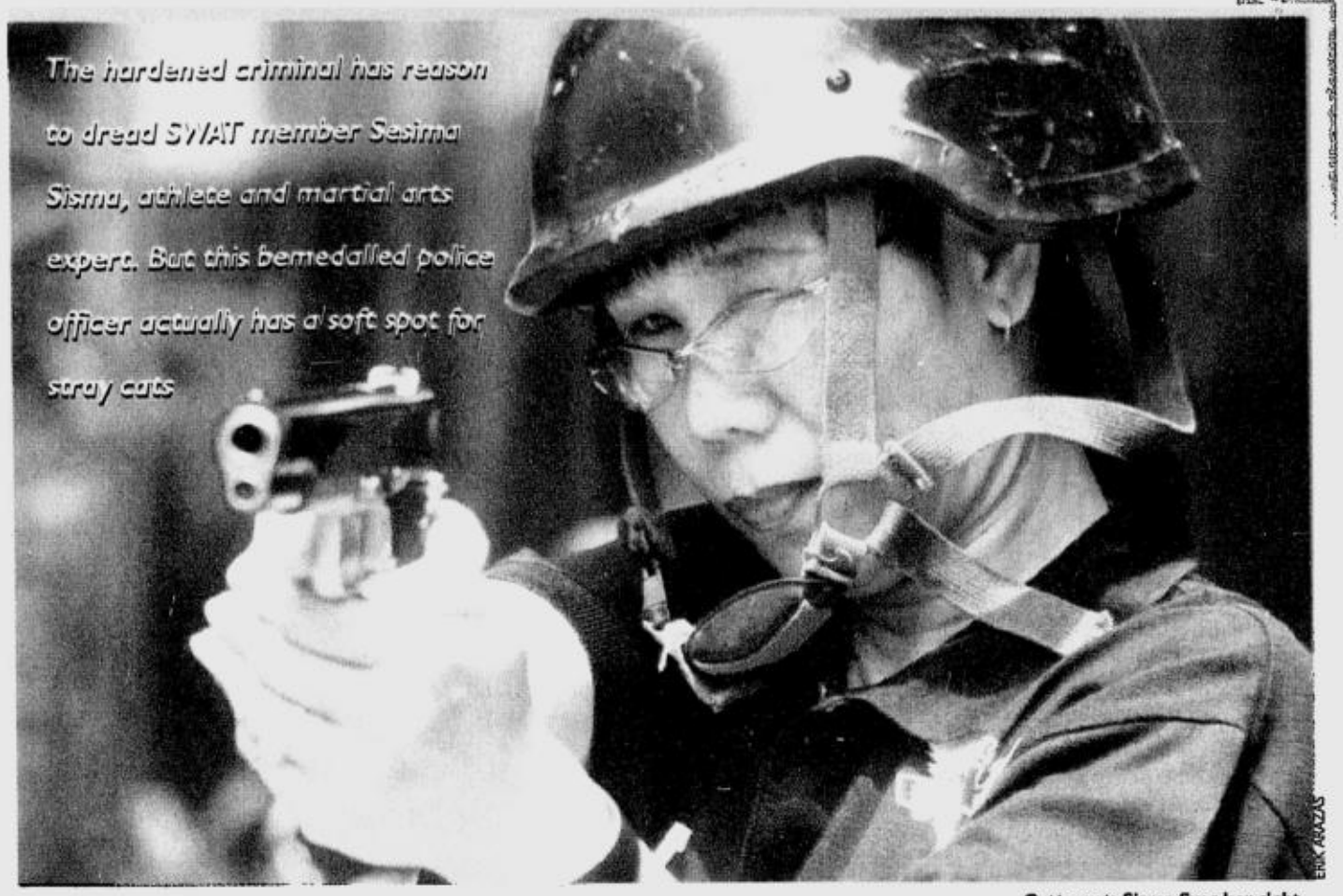
What displaced
the moment when—
in our utter simplicity
as you said—

we
could
have
forked lightning?

**Carlomar Arcangel Daoana**

**Trailblazers**
*By Emmanuel A. Bañez*

# Lady Cop




On target: Sisma fixes her sight on felons and felines

**THINGS would have turned out differently if Senior Police Officer 2 Sesima Sisma had been at the scene of the recent hostage taking at a bus station in Pasay City, that saw four-year-old Dexter Balala and suspect Diomedes Talvo die in a bungled police operation.**

After all, Sisma earned her stripes and national recognition when she neutralized a holdup man wielding a grenade and holing up inside a school campus at a busy intersection near Ayala Bridge in Manila. The plainclothes officer was on her way home when she encountered the felon fleeing after a jeepney heist. "It was a dangerous situation because the man had a grenade and a wrong move could result in bloodshed," Sisma recalls in Filipino, of the June 1993 scenario. Slowly, she positioned herself behind the suspect and gave him a flying kick in the back, enabling other police officers nearby to close in on him.

That stint earned Sisma the 1994 Outstanding Police Woman award. Not surprisingly, when she applied as a member of the elite Special Weapons and Action Team (SWAT) in 1999, she was welcomed by then SWAT chief Maj. Lucio Margallo, who reportedly told her: "*Ikaw pa ang hindi ko tatanggapin eh pitong lalaki ang katumbas mo* (How can I not accept you when you're equivalent to seven men?)."

Since then, Sisma has distinguished herself as the only female member of the Western Police District's SWAT team as well as for being an athlete, a licensed parachutist, a sharpshooter, a martial arts fanatic, a ballroom dancer and an animal advocate. But this police officer considers herself, above all, a survivor.

Born on October 25,1956, Sesima Villachica Sisma is the ninth of 10 children of a sugar estate tenant and a dressmaker in Bacolod City. Named after the method by which she was delivered, Sisma traces her dream of becoming a cop to her tomboyish tendencies as a child, "maybe because of my having six brothers," she shrugs. "I was also very adventurous," cites this 45-year-old law enforcer.

Determined to join the police force despite her parents' initial objections, Sisma took up a two-year Police Science and Technology course at the West Negros College in 1978. After passing the National Police Commission exam in 1980, she went to Manila to try her luck. It was tough, she recounts, of the early days that saw her staying at different friends' houses and even sleeping in a tent at the Philippine Constabulary Air Unit near the domestic airport. "From 1981 to 1985, those were the lean years," she says. Fortunately, people generously pitched in to provide her daily allowance. Harder to overcome, says Sisma, was the prevailing notion at that time that police work was exclusively a male profession. "But there are things women can do that men can't," she points out, admitting that she initially had difficulties breaking down gender barriers.

In 1985, she was admitted into the police force, handling paper work at the Central Administrative Record Division. "*Nagkapasma-pasma ako 'nun sa kasusulat tapos maglalaba pa* (I had cramps because I was writing all day then I'd have to wash my clothes)," Sisma recounts of her first job at the WPD.

From the Records Department, she was assigned to Narcotics Division under then Supt. Alfredo Lim and the Intelligence and Operations Bureau of then Col. Robert Barbers. It was a stint she found most challenging and rewarding, "*talagang trabahong pulis* (it was real police work)." She did surveillance and often posed as a buyer during buy-bust operations in squatters areas in Manila. Once, she recalls, her colleagues mistook her for a drug pusher during an operation near R. Papa.

Despite her work load at the WPD that time, Sisma managed to finish her course at the Philippine College of Criminology and managed to take basic courses in combat judo, taekwondo, aikido and karate.

Her martial arts skills came in handy when a holdup man seized her by the neck and poked a knife at her side, while demanding her handbag and wristwatch. It was near Rizal Park, she recounts. "*Naku, talagang nagjudohan kami 'nun* (I used judo). And then I kicked him in the groin. *Eh di namilipit siya* (he doubled up in pain)," the 5'3" police officer recalls.

Sisma, who is often singled out to represent the police district in several marathon events, attributes her running skills to former Manila Mayor Lim who influenced her to jog every weekend.

Among the races she has joined are the Milo Marathon, the Philippine Airlines Marathon, Philippine International Marathon, Puma Marathon, Avon Running National Finals, New Balance and the recent Runners' Executive Marathon. For the 26th National Milo Marathon in July, she plans to beat her personal record of 4 hours and 27 minutes in the 42-kilometer run. She's now among the top 10 women finishers of a national marathon.

But Sisma excels as well in ballroom dancing and often represents her district in competitions. "It feels good to dance as long as you know the sequence and you have the grace," says this award-winning terpsichorean.

Despite her many skills, Sisma believes it is her devotion to stray cats that makes her complete as a person. "I can't help but feel sorry for stray cats left to die on the street," she says. "*Gawa rin sila ng Diyos* (they're also God's creatures)."

Sisma, who treats her cats as family members, even filed suit in June 1999 against a non-uniformed WPD personnel who stomped to death one of her kittens. The man allegedly mistook the kitten for a mouse, but Sisma didn't believe him. "*Kung daga 'yun mabilis kumilos. Tapos tinapakan niya, tiniris pa* (If it were a mouse, it would move fast. But he managed to stomp on it)," she says, seething.

The case, filed in violation of the Animal Welfare Act got her free legal assistance from the Philippine Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, but did not prosper.

"They begged me to forgive the man, saying it's just a kitten, and the man was retiring anyway," she says. "But at least I taught him a lesson."

Sisma's story came out in the Inquirer and caught the attention of animal lovers who supported her cause. "An American even sent some cat food and wanted to give me an imported cat, but I said I wanted to take care of abandoned cats that need me more," says this SWAT member who dreams of building a mini-zoo for her cats someday. Sisma feeds her 20 cats and kittens their favorite, *galunggong* (scad), and buys them antibiotics and Tiki-Tiki.

Her affection for cats is something she wishes her colleagues would understand. "The attention I give my cats isn't wrong or immoral," she adds, recalling the time she asked fellow police officers to pull over so she could pick up an abandoned cat along UN Avenue.

Caring for cats makes her think of raising her own children, she admits. "If it's God's will, He will give me the right man," she shrugs. She has received offers but some of the men are married, she grimaces. "*Ano ako,* cheap?" she adds.

Sisma looks back on her 17 years in police service with pride: "I have a clean record and my name is unsullied," she says in Filipino, referring to the public's generally low regard for men in uniform. She has managed to do quite well on her cop's salary, she discloses, adding that she has bought her own house and lot in Dasmariñas, Cavite and has sent a nephew to college as well. "I made a lot of loans but we managed," she says.

Chasing *pusakals* (the criminal kind as well as *pusang kalye)* is something that occupies her time now, but Sisma sees other prospects in her future. She aspires to become the first female member of the Philippine National Police's bomb disposal unit. "Where there's risk, that's where I am," confides this police officer, whose promotion to SPO3 is also in the works.


New in the Philippines
(a discovery so amazing, so certain, that you can try without risking a single peso)

# When they saw my new breasts my friends could not believe their eyes!

**Without any surgery, in less than two weeks, my breasts have become higher, firmer and more voluminous. There are dozens of treatment for breasts but this one is really unique. Let me show you how it works.**

*"It's incredible, I finally got the breasts that I always dreamed of. And I thought that only surgery could bring about such visible results. I was mistaken," declares Carol Leleu. She explains below how she obtained her very beautiful bust - you could have it too...*

I should first specify that I never had big breasts. And when I got my first baby, I realized that in addition to that, they became less firm and they fell a bit... for me it was a catastrophe and I tried all sorts of creams and gadgets. But these did not change anything. I even contemplated aesthetic surgery but it was expensive and I was afraid of it.
I think I would have given anything just to have firmer and well-rounded breasts. But I was arriving at the conclusion that there was no solution at all for me, until one day when I went on vacation by the seaside in France with a friend.

**Irresistible Breasts**

One day while putting a swimsuit I confided my problem to my friend. It was at this moment that she talked to me about this famous procedure she discovered a few years ago.
I must admit that the results are stupefying. At forty years old, my friend has superb breasts, to such a point that, while walking by the seaside in monokini, she attracted the attention of a lot of people.
I should say that I envy her! She explained to me that she had the same problem after the birth of her son.
She told me too that before she discovered "Busterem" (this is the name of the treatment), she had much smaller breasts. And thanks to this treatment, she grew from 80 cm to 90 cm in her breast line in just a few months.
I just wanted to believe her, specially when she told me that there was absolutely no medication to take, absolutely no exercise to do and that this fantastic procedure had nothing to do with any cream that you see in the market today!
In conclusion, she added: "You will see, you will notice some change right from the very first few days and at the end of the vacation you will have a bust as big as mine... perhaps even more beautiful because you are younger than me."

**Me who has such a big complex with my bust**

It should be noted that for a long time, I had a big complex with my bust. I would have wanted so much to have round and firm breasts and perhaps breasts with more volume... Therefore, I decided to order.
My friend seemed to be so convinced, that I wanted to try it myself. Anyway, I was risking nothing, the results were guaranteed if not I had nothing to pay. A few days later, I received my "Busterem" treatment.
I had nothing to do but to follow the simple instructions. Everything was clearly explained

**Why does it work?**

*Actually, your breasts possess a certain number of adipose cells that are non-functional (see Schema 1 above). This is the reason why breasts fall and lose their firmness. Thanks to the action of "Busterem" these adipose cells are stimulated and become functional again (see Schema 2 above), which gives to your breasts their roundness, firmness and volume. Read the article above to be able to know how to provoke this process.*

**Here are the exact results that I was able to obtain in less than fifteen days**

I immediately began my treatment. It's true that it is very simple and agreeable... I could affirm that after two or three sessions, by looking at my profile at the mirror, I could see a real change already.
Of course I continued, and after each session I saw with delight my bust becoming firmer, more shapely and gaining a bit more volume. After eleven days the results were really fantastic. Even my friend could not believe her own eyes.
I remember my husband during the first evening of my return from vacation. He was dumbfounded. "What did you do? Your breasts are superb! Have you had a bust lift during your vacation?" And I told him: "No, I just followed a treatment called "Busterem"."
It has been three months since I discovered "Busterem" and I am the first one stupefied to realize that my breasts have completely transformed themselves.
I have told it to my aesthetician who couldn't believe her eyes (she explains these amazing results due to the fact that this process acts upon the glandular tissues by light contractions and on the internal fibers by activating the blood circulation). She then asked me to order a treatment for her.
Today I know she promotes "Busterem" to her clients after the birth of a child or after a too rapid weight loss. This is to tell you that even my aesthetician has been enthralled by "Busterem".
I now know that this treatment is available in the Philippines and this is the reason why I accepted to share my experience, to allow other women who would like to have beautiful breasts to discover this extraordinary treatment."

- Carol Leleu

**A scientific process and not a miracle!**

The originality of this unique treatment lies in the fact that it combines several indispensable actions for the regeneration of the bust.

- **Immediate action on the body of the breasts.**

"Busterem" restores to the skin its elasticity and firmness, thus creating a veritable natural bra that gives "body" to your breasts.

- **Durable and lasting effect.**

By acting upon the capillaries under the skin, the "Busterem" process provokes and stimulates the cellular activity of the muscle fibers of the bust. Tired tissues become firm again, glands are stimulated, blood circulation is activated, the adipose cells grow in size and take on life again, which has an overall effect of provoking a veritable regeneration of your breasts

- **Results that are really visible.**

From the very first few sessions, by passing your hands over your breasts you can feel how much firmer they are, and by looking at yourself in profile at the mirror, you will be amazed to see at what point your breasts have already remodeled themselves.

In fifteen days, "with a tape mesure in your hands", you will realize that your breasts have gained volume. In addition to that, your skin will be firmer and more supple... and therefore, more agreable to caress. Your partner will certainly not fail to notice it.

**Now, obtain the breasts of your dreams**

Do you want to try this new process yourself? To have breasts that are firm, high and shapely without ever resorting to aesthetic surgery.
Perhaps you have already tried different products, creams or gadgets without any convincing results. Now you can forget all of it.
Even if you have already raised several children, your breasts should become firmer. Even if your breasts are almost inexistent, you should be able to see them take on volume. You should be able to realize it without any doubt within fifteen days:

- Breasts that are slightly more voluminous
- Breasts that are higher with more body
- Softer and firmer skin

**The first "Busterem" treatment is for FREE. Here is our offer.**

Simply cut and send the enclosed coupon. When you will receive your package, you will receive two treatments. First of all, use the first treatment (the trial treatment). Follow the instructions that will be given you. It will just take a few minutes to read the instructions and from the very first few sessions you should be able to obtain visible results from your mirror.
By passing your hands over your breasts, you will feel them to be more firm, more round and by looking at yourself in profile before the mirror, you will be amazed to see at what point your breasts have already started to remodel themselves.
If, after using the first treatment, you are not completely convinced with the results, just return to us the unopened second treatment (the elaborated treatment) and the experience will not have cost you anything. Not a single peso.

**You have fifteen days to realize that your breasts stays more firm and more shapely**

After fifteen days, you should be able to realize not only a veritable change, not only firmer and shapelier breasts, but also, you should be able to realize that these results are durable.
If not, if you are not 100% enthusiastic, just send us back the Elaborated treatment "Busterem" and we will reimburse you. And this, without any condition, and without any questions asked. You could then begin this treatment just because you are simply curious.

**Only for the next fifteen days (after this, it will be too late)**

At this very moment, you will benefit from our special introductory offer of "Busterem" in the Philippines. But there is one condition. And that is to send the coupon immediately. Because after this promo, the price of the treatment will be fixed at P3150.00 and there would probably be no more free trials.
**Remember this well: you are not buying definitively today, you are just making a trial. If you would not be 100% enthusiastic (something which would surprise me) your trial treatment will not have cost you one single peso.**
This is the reason why you should not risk arriving too late. Send to us this very day your coupon so that we will expedite to you the product in priority.

If you are not buying through correspondence, you could directly obtain this treatment through M.S.I.C., Rm. 303 Munro Bldg., 612 Pinatubo St., (MRT Boni) Mandaluyong City.
or text us at (0917) 893-7343

**Free trial coupon**
**Cut this coupon and send it to: M.S.I.C., PO Box 18 CPO 1550 Mandaluyong City**

Put a check in the square corresponding to your case. I desire:
☐ breasts that are more firm.
☐ breasts with more body.
☐ breasts with more volume.

Yes, your trial offer without any commitment on my part interests me. I want to try the new "Bustlift" treatment.
According to your guarantee, it is understood that:
1. I should see visible results right from the very first few days of treatment.
2. I should realize that my breasts are more firm, that they have more body, and that my skin (surrounding my breasts) is more taut and soft to caress.
3. this treatment acts through simple application once a day.
4. I have 15 entire days to realize that I am really enthusiastic with this product.

If it is not the case, or if for one reason or another, I were not 100% enthusiastic, I would send to you through registered mail the unopened elaborated treatment within 15 days after having received it. I don't have to give you any explanation. And after reception of my return package, you would reimburse me integrally. And this, without asking me any question whatsoever and without any conditions.
Under this guarantee, please send to me, through a discreet package without any exterior markings, the complete "Busterem" treatment consisting of 15 ml of the Biological Serum plus 100 ml of the Restructuring Emulsion plus Toning Oil and 15 ml of Bio Emulsion 3J.
Please find enclosed my payment of P2600.00 + P100.00 for delivery and handling, or a grand total of P2700.00 that I enclose through:
☐ Instacash ☐ ☐ ☐ American Express
Card No.: _____
Exp. Date: _____
Cardholder: _____
Signature: _____
I have enclosed my payment:
☐ by cheque made out to Mail Shopping International Corp.
☐ by Postal Money Order (PMO) made out to Mail Shopping International Corp.
☐ I prefer to pay COD through the Phil. Postal Corp upon receipt of package. In this case I pay P 60 COD charges
☐ Whatever form of payment I choose, I wish to be served with absolute priority. I therefore tack and add P 50 to my above payment.
Name: _____ Date: ____
Address: _____
_____ Zip: ____
Tel./Cell. No.: _____
e-mail: msic@info.com.ph 05230006-51
Fax us at 5313507 or call 5337932 or 5328017


BEST COPY AVAILABLE

**Stylewatch**
*Produced and Directed by Larry Leviste*
*Photographs by Raymund Isaac*
*Fashion by Patis Tesoro, Barge Ramos and Auggie Cordero*

# What Would They Wear to the Wedding?

**IAL Fashion 911. As I eyeballed the no-fuss, no-frills but veddy Old School wedding invitation to the Arroyo-Montenegro nuptials, I posed myself the age-old question: What to wear?**

A hot June bridal date asks you to attend as family or political ally. How does one rise to the occasion in style? Looking great while feeling good at the mind-boggling "Wedding of the Vice-Gob." The answer: form following function.

A fashion emergency calls for a brand new way of wearing Filipiniana; a dress-by-number solution, no-stress outfits for the fashion impaired. Looking suddenly sexy yet comfy.

Latin-Asian Fashion sets us apart with our Catholicism and Hispanic past. We know we are geographically and racially Asian, but Manila wouldn't look out of place in Mexico. Too much of a gringo orientation has blinded us to our south-of-the-border roots.

We gathered 20 non-professional models who are very much Pinoys, at ease with their heritage yet thoroughly contemporary in their mindset. They aren't at a loss about what to wear to The Wedding (if invited).

Study these Raymund Isaac group photos of Manila's Young VIPs ( that's Vicariously Inclined Personalities) wearing the answers on their bodies. They are what they wear. Surefire outfits sizzling with color and comfort, yet fit and strictly formal. Not one opted for their *lola*'s finery or was consumed by costume.

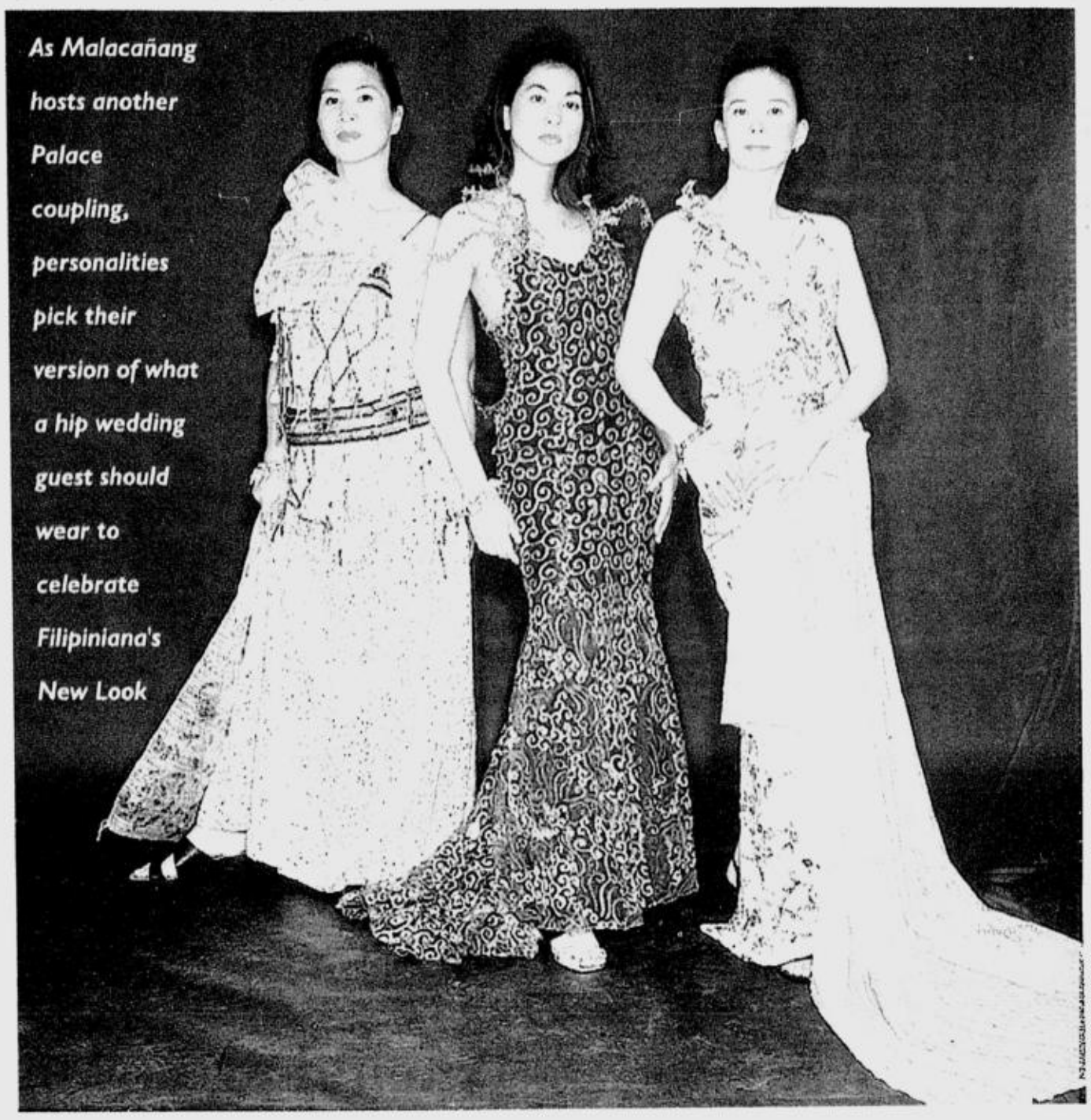
Here in this exclusive SIM pictorial are young movers and shakers in media, banking, medicine, arts and entertainment wearing what we are defining as the Latin Asian Look.

Mix 500 years of Spanish soignee styling with 50 years of Hollywood glitter and dramatic glamour in a melting pot flavored with our distinctive fabrics, indigenous weaves rich with Asian beadwork, embroidery and accessories.

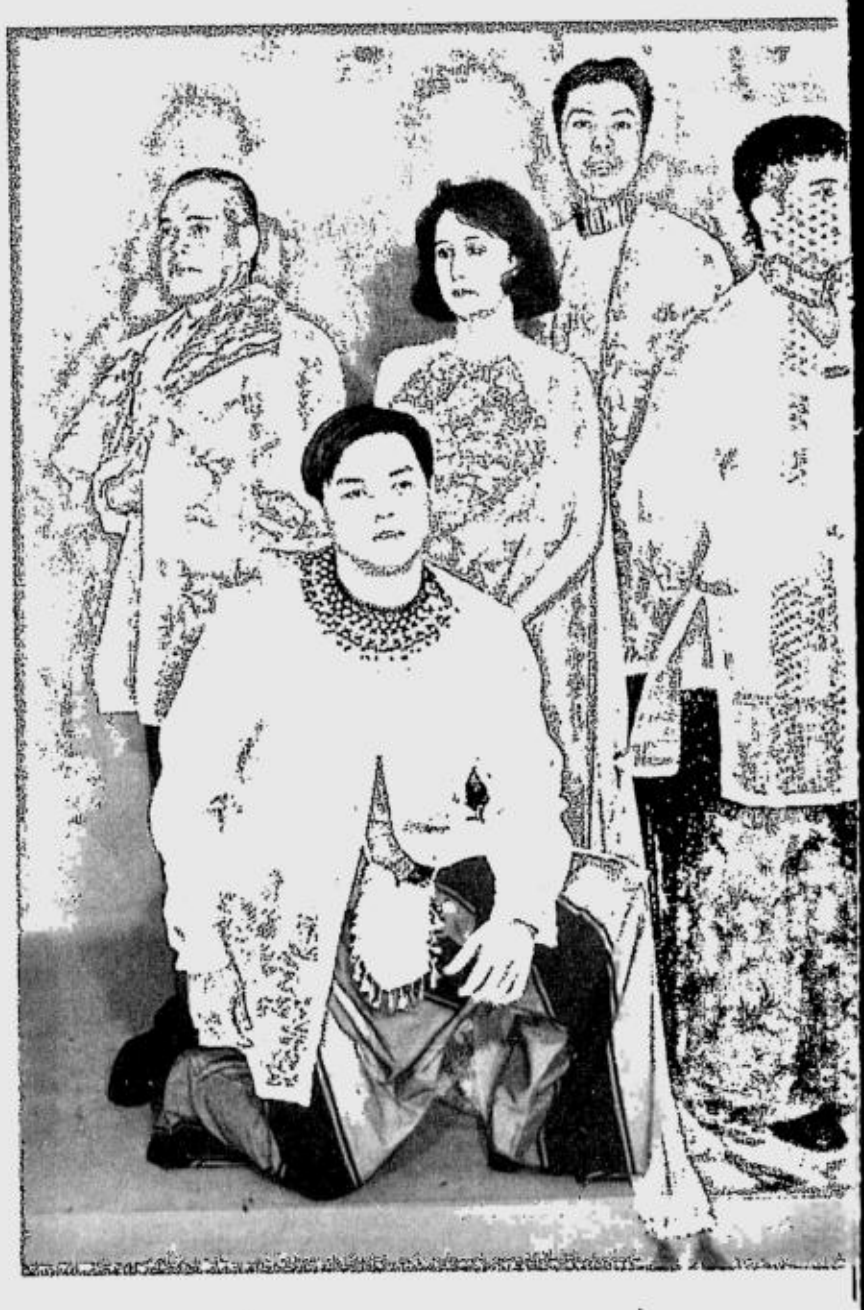
Narrow it down to a shortlist. Always consider the travel time and social clime while wearing the conscripted outfit. Open air or air-conditioned should decide whether you will wear your patriotism on your butterfly sleeved *terno, baro't saya* or Maria Clara creation by your favorite local couturier. Or even maybe a Filipino design in First World fabrication. Mix European design with Asian colors and accessories. Forget costume; try custom-made, elegant but not ethnic.

The New Order of Filipiniana is perfect fashion sense and sensibility to deal with the crowds, the changing humidity factor and the photo opportunity with the President.

*As Malacañang hosts another Palace coupling, personalities pick their version of what a hip wedding guest should wear to celebrate Filipiniana's New Look*



Onie Sun and J.R. Isaac opt for Orientalia (top right); professor Veronica Sun, commercial model Rose Flores, and real estate agent Baby de los Santos (above); actress Vivian Velez, commercial model Charlie de los Santos, architect Ivie Gabales, and kids Gabby Sun, Lorenzo Tesoro and Melissa Leviste (clockwise, leftmost)



## For a Cause

*By Sheila S. Coronel*
*Photographs by Sonny Yabao*

# Dancing on the Sulfur Mountain

***How Betty Colmo and the Manobo community in Mount Apo revived their native rituals and traditions that were all but stamped out by a geothermal plant***

**BETTY Colmo, now in her 30s, remembers that her childhood on the foothills of Mount Apo was an idyll. "To me, it was paradise," she recalls. "No one was rich or poor because everything was shared. People were always gathering together. We lived both in the mountains and the plains, staying with relatives wherever we went."**

Betty's mother was Manobo, her father, a Visayan migrant. When her mother died, Betty went to live with her father among the Christians in the lowlands. The change, she recalls, turned her life inside out. "I suffered culture shock, a big trauma."

Since her youth, Betty had nurtured the memory of an Edenic Mount Apo. So when she returned to the village of her childhood in the mid-1990s, she was aghast to see that the paradise was no more. By then she had finished college and was working as an assistant for a human rights lawyer. What she found angered and depressed her. The forests had been logged over, Ilocano and Visayan migrants had overrun the Manobo settlements, and the community that she remembered as once full of life was now poor, miserable, and full of bickering.

In her home village of Sayaban, Betty saw only suffering and shame. "When you looked at the old folk then," she says. "They seemed so sad, they looked like they had no more hope left in them. It was as if they were just waiting to die."

It is a story that has happened elsewhere. The entry of settlers, loggers, or big infrastructure projects forces tribal peoples out of their land, forests, and fishing grounds. Later, their rituals, crafts, and traditional farming and hunting practices vanish as well. In the end, all is lost: not only the hills, rivers or seas that form the material base of their existence, but also their culture, their motivation, their sense of meaning.

Like other tribes, the story of the Manobo of Mount Apo was a chronicle of loss. Betty's people, the Obo Manobo, had lived in the northwestern flank of the mountain since the mid-1800s, when their ancestor Apao went on a hunting trip that brought him to the top of the dormant volcano that is the Philippines' highest peak. The Manobo named it Apo Sandawa, after the local word for sulfur, the element that defines the mountain, whose vents give off clouds of sulfur steam.

The Americans came to Mount Apo in the early 1900s, bringing smallpox and influenza along with their schools and religions. Manobo children were forced to study; missionaries also taught them to worship in evangelical churches. In the 1950s and 1960s, loggers ravaged the forests. Lowlanders followed the logging roads into the mountain and settled there, depriving the Manobo of their land.

In the late 1980s, the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) began to build a geothermal plant on Mount Apo. The plan was opposed by some of the local folk, who were joined by the Catholic Church and human-rights and environmental groups. The Manobo were divided, with some won over by the PNOC's promises of jobs and benefits.

By the mid-1990s, the protests died down. The media and the NGOs also lost interest. The local people carried on in the anonymity of their poverty and misery. PNOC kept some of its promises, but its presence did not improve people's lives, even as the communal division it caused lingered. Thus, an anthropologist described the Obo Manobo as a "diminishing tribe" on its way to extinction.

On her return to Mount Apo, Betty was distressed by the certainty with which outsiders had foretold her people's

To page 7

Betty Colmo puts on the traditional Manobo headdress in preparation for her clan's annual reunion (top); Betty is surrounded by Manobo elders who will preside over the first traditional wedding that took place on Mount Apo in decades (above)

Executives Ed Fereira, Michael Romero (kneeling) and Grace Palma Tiongco, journalist Alex Vergara, and banker Lito Quisumbing (left); commercial model Rose Flores, basketball player Ramon Daet, ballroom maven Maribel Dario, PR and restaurateur Louie Cruz, banker Tito Manapat and executive Grace Palma Tiongco (above); Patis Tesoro's think tank: Jen-Jen Hen, Jun Belencion, Nina Tesoro, Anthony Legarda, Ben-Hur Win and, in shawl, Rosemarie Flores (right)

**Bon Appetit**

*By Amando Doronila*

# Getting to Know **Greek** Flavors

***Greek food is served the Asian way — all the dishes are put on the table at the same time, so the distinction is lost between appetizers and main dishes***

Photographs by JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

**Saganaki, fried cheese served with lemon**

THE WEEKEND crowd that spills out to the open air tables of the Greek restaurant Mati at Rockwell Power Plant announces the fact that Filipinos are getting more curious about Greek cuisine, for which we only have a glancing acquaintance, except for those who have travelled overseas. In the United States, for example, Greek restaurants are quite popular and compete head-to-head with Italian restaurants.

The mosaic of our gastronomic landscape has been highlighted by Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Italian, French, Spanish, English and American cooking, but Greek cooking is as remote as Homer's tales of the Trojan War. Mati is the solitary flagship of Greek civilization, one of the oldest in the world, and food historians credit it as the father of European cuisine. One book says that many famous Greek dishes found their way to Rome, to which the torch of civilization passed after the demise of the Greek city states.

**Mati's Kalamarakia, fried baby squid**

When we speak about Greek cuisine, as it found its way into Manila, we don't really have in mind food from Sparta, the home of the legendary warrior-state that wreaked havoc on the Persian hordes. The Greeks, according to Reay Tannahile's "Food in History," shuddered at the Spartan favorite — the "black broth" made of pork, stock, vinegar and salt. The dish, says the book, was so "infamous throughout the civilized world" that a food critic, Athenaeus, concluded that "the most cowardly man in the world would prefer to die rather than endure living that sort of life."

Luckily, Mati is owned by the family of Steve Psinakis, who handed down to their restaurant the more delicious Greek recipes, many of which took the Roman world by storm. My own exposure to Greek cuisine is quite limited and derived from visits to Greek restaurants in Melbourne, where there are as many Greeks living as in Salonika.

With a group of around 10 guests, we explored Mati's extensive menu chosen by Jeremiah Go, a Filipino chef, trained in Switzerland and in the Culinary Institute of American in California's Napa Valley, the pride of the US wine industry. Go confected from the Psinakis' family recipe.

Greek food is served the Asian way — all the dishes are put on the table at the same time, so the distinction is lost between appetizers and main dishes. For starters, we had Saganaki, fried imported Kefalograviera cheese, served with lemon. The Grèeks use lemon for salad dressing. The other appetizer was Kalamarakia, deep-fried baby squid, served with yoghurt sauce. The squid is fried in cooking oil, not olive oil, to produce a crispy yet soft taste. It is served with Tzatziki, a dip made of yoghurt, cucumber and garlic. This is the equivalent of fried squid rings in Italian cooking. Both these dishes are popular at Mati.

Eggplant is a favored vegetable in Greek cooking and by Balkan peoples. They call it the "poor man's caviar." At Mati, the eggplant dish is called Melitzanes Tiganites & Tzatziki, slices of fried eggplant coated with beer-ouzo batter and served with Tzatziki. Ouzo is a liquor made of star anise which leaves an exhilarating flavor.

Eggplant is also used for the main dish, Moussaka, well-known to those who fancy Greek food. It is made of layers of eggplant with ground beef and bechamel, sprinkled with cheese and baked until golden brown. For those who love lasagna, Moussaka is the Greek version, which is more tasty than the former.

Another main dish is Garides Saganaki, baked prawns and feta cheese in thick, herbed tomato sauce with oregano, rosemary and thyme, the herbs giving the dish a symphony of subtle flavors. If you like lamb, try Paidakia, lamb chops grilled golden brown and crispy on hot lava rock. I like my lamb chops pink, but the Greeks prefer them well-done. The lamb is from either Australian or New Zealand. The lamb is tender and juicy. Greek food is strong in olive oil and olives. Historically, olives were the main export of Greece, and the extensive cultivation of the olive tree, while commercially profitable, accounted for the bleakness of the land. Olive trees extract much water from the soil.

For a variation, Youvetsi is equally tempting. It is made of lamb chunks from the leg, served with orzo pasta and tomato sauce. Orzo pasta takes the shape of rice. The ever popular Souvlaki comes in several forms — grilled skewered chicken, lamb or pork and vegetables. There is also Tuna Souvlaki.

I can't recall the name of the Greek wines (white and red) we had, but let's not forget that in the ancient world, wine was Greece's second export. From the fifth to the first century B.C., according to Tannahile, Greece, in the Mediterranean world, was the home of fine wines. Their wines then tended to be on the sweet side, resembling Hungary's tokay. Greek wine went to Rome which propagated the vine, and Italian wines developed supremacy as Rome grew from the republic to empire.

Greek mineral water is another thing. Sourati is their sparkling mineral water more effervescent and bubbly than France's Perrier water and, therefore, a good counterfoil to the more olive-oil based recipes. For dessert, we had honeyed yoghurt. Prices for the appetizers range from P100 to P200 and the main dishes, from P195 to P395, without drinks. Service is relatively efficient and there's lots of space in the open air area emulating European-style sidewalk cafes, where smokers don't feel inhibited.

My suggestion is that to get the best out of a new food exploration experience, don't hesitate to ask the staff for advice and explanation of the food. That will avoid hit-and-miss intuitive selection, which is bad for the purse.

**LoveNotes**

*By Joe D' Mango*

# When **Trust** is Gone

***Trust is something that is so easy to lose but is so hard to earn. You are not alone in this dilemma. A lot of women have encountered infidelity in their relationships and had to deal with it***

*Dear Joe,*

*I'm Antoinette, 20, and a graduating student from a Manila university. I'm a bit confused and hurt at the moment. I've been with Kelvin for 2 1/2 years now. We met in college and started out as friends. Our friendship eventually blossomed into a beautiful romance.*

*Kelvin was my first boyfriend and we were so happy during our first year and a half together. After some time, I realized that he doesn't know how to take care of a woman. I was the one who usually made the first move and made the decisions in our relationship. But in spite of that, I learned to love him even more.*

*After two years, our relationship became boring. I guess I got tired of waiting for him to be sweet. There were times when we wouldn't know what to talk about anymore. Everything became boring. I knew he was also tired of our relationship so we decided to cool off for a while. I was devastated because I couldn't understand why our beautiful romance had suddenly turned cold and bitter.*

*After a week, we got back together and tried to work things out. But it was not the same. I felt that he was hiding something from me but I just kept quiet. Then I found out that he usually went out late at night without telling me. Some of my friends told me that they would usually see him in night clubs. It didn't bother me that much until one night when I saw him with another girl. I was so mad that I ended our relationship right then and there. He ran after me and explained that she was just a friend and he was just taking her home. He begged me to come back and promised that he would now ask my permission whenever he went out. I believed him and gave him another chance.*

*But he is still going out late almost everyday and comes home early in the morning. I was paranoid but I kept silent because I didn't have evidence that he was doing something bad. Sometimes I would see some suspicious things but he always denied it. He became extra nice to me for months and gave me flowers. Some say that if a guy is acting extra nice it's because he's doing something bad behind a girl's back.*

*Three weeks later, my prayers were answered. I caught him and he couldn't deny it anymore. I avoided him but he pleaded for me to hear his explanation. When I agreed to talk to him, he told me everything about the girl. He said that she was a club girl and he was going out with her every night because she gave him something that he couldn't get from me because he respects me—sex.*

*Joe, I did nothing but cry. I was so hurt. He told me that he loves me very much and, if given another chance, he promised that he would change and would never leave me because he can't live without me. Joe, I love him so much so I agreed. My friends told me that I was stupid and that I should break up with him.*

*I already forgave him but the pain is still there. The trust is already gone. Sometimes I would ask myself what I've done wrong. Some say it's natural for guys to go to clubs and flirt with the girls there. Is this true?*

*We are still together now but I feel so alone and when I remember everything, I would just cry.*

*Joe, please help me. I love Kelvin so much and I can't stand the thought of losing him. Is it worth giving him another chance despite all the pain he's caused me?*

*Truly yours,*
*Antoinette*

Illustration by ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Dear Antoinette,

Trust is something that is so easy to lose but is so hard to earn. You are not alone in this dilemma. A lot of women have encountered infidelity in their relationships and had to deal with it.

Why men can't seem to get enough sex is a question that can't be answered simply. Why they can't be satisfied with just one partner is another that demands a lot of justification. It is true that men are drawn to clubbing and having a good time with friends. Flirting with women is one thing that most of them find challenging and amusing. Most of these are just fleeting moments of passion but some evolve into serious affairs that threaten their legitimate relationships. Drawing the line between play and business is difficult once a man gets caught in the tempting circle of passion and desire. My stand is, it may be natural for men to flirt with women but being natural doesn't always mean that it is the right thing to do.

Antoinette, all men fall into this trap once or many times in their lives. No one is spared from being tempted into entering an illicit affair. Getting into one is just a matter of choice and usually a defiance of their moral conviction. It is something that we know is wrong but still continue to pursue simply because our spiritual and moral sensibility are overpowered by our desire to satisfy the need that we created in our minds. It is usually a superficial need, something that we can survive without. But because of our weakness, we look at it as something that would have to be satisfied to make us truly happy.

If Kelvin is sincere in his intention to change and make up for all the hurt he has caused you, and if you still love him as much as you did before, then, I believe he deserves that chance to prove his worth and you owe it to yourself to give him that opportunity. I know it is hard to trust him again. But a relationship without trust is not bound to last. If you loved him enough to have forgiven him then love a little bit more so you can build your confidence in the promises he made and gain wisdom in helping him keep it. With trust, you can start over again. With faith, you can build the foundation of a new relationship and with love you can weather all storms to keep that stronghold standing and make it last for as long as you wish to.

By Jess Abrera

Baon

# Art

**A Confluence of Diverging Views by Six Filipino Artists** features the recent works of Hermes Alegre, Fatima Antonio-Baquiran, Remy Boquiren, Edgar Talusan Fernandez, Caloy Gabuco and Jonathan Olazo. Exhibit opens June 28 and will run until July 7 at Artspace, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Makati City.

**The Irregulars**, Carlo Angelo G. Saavedra's first solo exhibit, opens on June 29 at the Ad Infinitum Gallery in San Juan. For details, call 726-9015.

Paparazzi's Truffle's Perfume

# Music

**Cecile Licad** will perform pieces of Schubert, Liszt-Busoni and Chopin in a solo recital on June 24, 8 p.m. at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. Tickets available at CCP and Ticketworld Outlets in National Bookstore and Tower Records branches. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1409.

**Novo Concertante Manila** ends its Midyear Concert Series with In Yellow/Blue on June 30, 5 p.m. at the Abelardo Hall, UP Diliman. Tickets available at P200. For inquiries, call Dindo (0918)5223385 or Tini (0918)3215432.

**The CompanY** takes centerstage at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the CCP on June 25, 8 p.m. in a sentimental homecoming performance. Tickets available at the CCP and Ticketworld outlets in National Bookstore and Tower Records. For inquiries, call 832-3704 or 891-5610.

**Our Song**, a concert featuring the University of the Philippines MedChoir in an eclectic celebration of a capella music from the classic to the contemporary, June 28, 7 p.m. at the PhilamLife Auditorium. Tickets priced at P100 are available at the UP College of Medicine. For inquiries, contact Pel (0919-3482584) or Jo (0917-8136570).

The first all-a capella recording of Philippine liturgical music will be launched today at 3 p.m. at the Loyola House of Studies chapel inside the Ateneo campus in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The CD, **Hangad Acapella!**, features the music of Hangad, a singing group composed of young women and men who specialize in church songs.' For details, call the Jesuit Music Ministry (426-6101 loc. 3425) or email mail@hangad.com.

# Onstage

**Falsettos**, New Voice Company's production of the Tony Award-winning musical about love and the complexities of modern relationships in the age of AIDS, June 28 to Aug. 3 at the Music Museum. Tickets available at all Ticketworld outlets in National Bookstore branches, Robinson Department Stores, Tower Records and Music Museum. For details, call 896-6695 and 896-5497.

The cast of New Voice Company's "Falsettos"

# Cinema

Cinemalibre presents Lav Diaz's five-hour opus, **Batang West Side**, on June 28, 3 p.m. at the UP Film Center, Magsaysay Avenue, UP Diliman. The film gives an overview of the Filipino-American community, both its functional and dysfunctional members. For details, call 925-0286 and 926-3640.

# Food

Get ready for cheese-nibbling, wine-sipping, dining and romancing as Hotel Inter-Continental Manila presents the **French Cheese and Wine Festival** at the Prince Albert Rotisserie until June 29.

Experience the taste of the world over as Raphael Café-Restaurant of the Manila Galleria Suites presents a succulent buffet featuring the best-loved **international dishes** until today.

New World Renaissance Hotel presents **A Taste of Vietnam** until June 30 at the hotel's Emperor Court. Vietnamese favorites highlight the restaurant's daily lunch and dinner buffets. A display of Vietnamese artifacts and music completes the Vietnamese food festival experience.

Indulge in an exquisite dinner featuring Black Italian Summer Truffles at Edsa Shangri-La's Paparazzi until June 30. Its Italian resident chef prepares a fusion menu for **Truffle's Perfume** including a la carte specials and set dinner.

# Atbp

Photography enthusiasts are invited to join the **basic photo course** organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. on July 7 at the Ysias Restaurante, Fort Santiago, Manila. For details, call 813-7420 and 843-5341.

Adarna House is holding its annual **back-to-school sale** until June 30 at the Adarna House showroom at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Bgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Discounts up to 50 percent are available on Adarna children's books, gift items, young adult novellas and other Adarna publications. For details, call 372-3548.

The Philippine Educational Theater Association Women's Theater Program will hold the video and book launching of **Libby Manaoag Files: *Ang Paghahanap sa Puwertas Prinsesas*** on June 28, 4 p.m. at the Wasabi Bistro & Sake Bar, 7912 Makati Avenue. For details, call 410-0822.

Christian Children's Ministry Philippines will hold a seminar on **7 Laws of the Learner** on June 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 30, 1-6 p.m. at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Seminar fee is P350. Reservations accepted until June 28. For inquiries, call 823-2615.

ProActive Center for Training will hold a **Managing a Restaurant/Canteen seminar-workshop** on June 27-July 8, 1-5 p.m. at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, Quezon City. For reservations, call 787-6370.

Learn how to assemble your own PC, configure hardware, install software and troubleshoot basic computer problems through a **Computer Assembly Workshop** on June 30 at the Isis International-Manila, No. 3 Marunong St., Teacher's Village Ext. (near QC Hall). Fee inclusive of CD package, certificate and lunch. For reservation, call 417-1521 or 0919-7833468.

A **Wedding Showcase Bazaar** will be held on June 26-28 at the Enterprise Center, Makati City. The bazaar will feature the country's top caterers, wedding coordinators, fashion designers and photographers. For inquiries, call Mafe Estudillo at 922-2272.

**Tapping the Creative Universe**, a workshop that will help uncover, identify and set aside the blocks that stand in the way of creativity in everyday life. The workshop will employ practical techniques developed by Jim Paredes. Workshops will be on June 24, 26, 27, July 1, 3, 5 at the Rockwell Club. For details, call 426-5375 or 929-0230.

St. Dymphna SpEd Consultancy Center will hold a lecture **workshop on music therapy** on June 29, 1-7 p.m. at Asian Social Institute, Leon Guinto, Manila. Workshop fee is P500. For inquiries, call 253-6236 or 233-3645.

***PaSIkLaBAN sa PCU*** **(***Paunang Sosyalan, Indakan, Lakaran, Botohan at Sumpaan sa* PCU), first National Federation of Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants-NCR Regional Assembly, June 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., University Gym, 5/F, PCU Manila, Pedro Gil cor. Taft Ave. For details, call Glenn at 838-0462 or 0918-5689686.

Dero Pedero presents **Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True**, a success seminar that employs computer and video technology to present life enhancing secrets, principles and techniques vital in helping you achieve your dreams to be held at The Roof Deck, Buendia Tower, 105 Gil Puyat Ave. on June 29 at 4-8:30 p.m. E-mail DeroSeminar@yahoo.com and text or call Deena at 0920-4053233 for details.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities of Metro Manila recently launched **Pride festivities** this month that include a transgender male beauty contest, bowling and billiards tournaments, forum sessions, poetry readings, art and photo exhibits, "queer" mass and mass weddings, self-defense workshops and parties at Wherelse, Ladida and Mint. It will culminate with the traditional Pride March at Remedios Circle, Malate on June 29. For details, visit website at www.pridemanila.cjb.net or call 732-4387.

# X-manila

**Regada 2002: The Cavite City Water Festival**, an annual festival celebrating the Caviteños love for water. Highlights include Bisperas: Mardi Gras sa Salamanca (June 23), *Basayawan sa Kalye, Palaro sa Paulan, Karakol ni* San Juan Bautista and *Tugtugan sa Paulan* (June 24). For details, call (046) 431-1655 or (046) 431-2429.

**Wall in a Hole**, an exhibit of multimedia paintings, sculptures and performances by Rene Aquitania, Rebecca Padilla Dolonius, Boyet Jiata, Rommel Padilla, Joey "Pepe" Smith, Bumbo Villanueva and Ysagani Ybarra, opens June 29, 5:30 pm, at Hole on Fields Avenue corner Teodoro in Angeles City. Show runs until July 20.

***Pahanungod***, a group show of paintings and mixed media works with local themes by members of the Kasikasi Art Association of Tacloban City, until July 25 at the Leyte SMED Center, Capitol Grounds, Tacloban City.

## Art and the Earth

More than 70 well known and highly respectable artists agreed to create their individual masterpieces to raise funds via an art raffle to address the worsening garbage problem in the metropolis. The works of National Artists Napoleon Abueva, Arturo Luz and Jerry Navarro, and highly regarded artists like Mauro Malang, Ben Cabrera, Romulo Olazo, Pandy Aviado, Danny Dalena, Raul Isidro, Amor Lamarozza, Ramon Orlina, Fidel Sarmiento, Ral Arrogante, Charito Bitanga, Susan Fetalvero-Roces and Joven Ignacio among others, will form part of the exhibit "Vision & Reality: The Earth Is in Our Hands" at the Ayala Museum, G/F Old Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City until June 30. Each raffle ticket is priced at P10,000 and will be raffled on July 31. The proceeds will help raise funds for the awareness campaign for Materials Recovery Facilities in every barangay. Raffle tickets are available at the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution secretariat (tel. 633-7198) or at the Ayala Museum (tel. 812-1191 to 95).

"Flowers in Bloom" by Joven Ignacio

**For this week's bands and schedules call:**

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

**The Sunday Inquirer Magazine** welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

...from page 5

death. She sought out her cousin Tano Bayawan, an evangelical pastor who was translating the Bible to Obo. In their meetings, they brought in other members of the Umpan clan. The Manobo, they believed, would not die if they did not let it. But how were they to reverse the march of history and bring their people back to life?

Betty and her cousins did an inventory of what they had, but they did not find very much except a memory of the life before. There were few remnants of the Manobo culture, except for the epics that the lone chanter in the village could recite and the story of the tribe's origins that elders still recalled. Even their gongs and kulintang had been sold. Theirs was a legacy more meager than those possessed by indigenous peoples elsewhere.

"We started to think that it would be best to go to the root causes of our illness so we could regain our confidence and be able to assert ourselves," recounts Betty. "So we initiated a cultural regeneration movement so we could have confidence in ourselves, so we could have an identity. Because without identity, there can be no self-respect, and if you don't have self-respect, others will not respect you."

The movement's first activity was a reunion among the members of the Umpan clan. Such gatherings were once a part of Manobo life; they were also a good way to rebuild relationships and the communal spirit. In planning the reunion, the cousins needed to know who the clan members were, so they put a genealogy together with the help of the elders.

Thus began a process in which the older folk recollected long-forgotten elements of Manobo culture. It was a learning experience, especially for the young people who no longer had any sense of traditional culture. The reunions began in 1996 and have since been an annual event. During these gatherings, elders put on Manobo ceremonial dress and presided over rituals. The kulintang and agong were played. And for the first time in decades, the Manobo danced again.

It was the effort to revive dances and other traditional cultural forms that led the Manobo to ask, "How can we continue to dance if we are not secure on our land?" Such questions paved the way for the filing of an ancestral domain claim. They also spurred the tribe to work together in other ways, including setting up a communal farm, a theater group, and a scholarship fund.

Betty and her cousins saw that it was possible: dance and memory could confound history. They were changing the plot of the story that had been written for them, and they were doing it on their own.

Eventually, the government approved the Manobo's ancestral domain claim, including that made by the Umpan clan on the land on which the PNOC plant stands. This was possible only because the Manobo have learned to mine the strength that lies within them. "Who are they to say that ours is a dying tribe?" asks Betty. "Our culture will not diminish. We will not allow it." Q

*(The story of Betty and of other tribal leaders is told in the book "Memory of Dances, written by Sheila S. Coronel, with photographs by Sonny Yabao.)*

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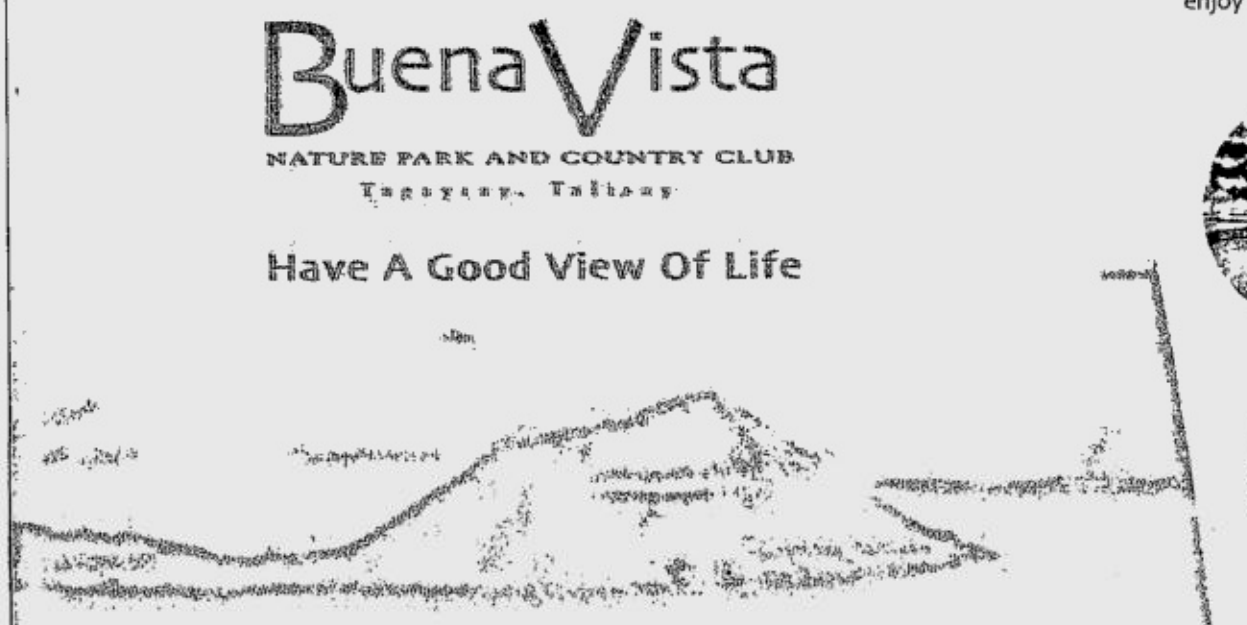
# Buena Vista

NATURE PARK AND COUNTRY CLUB

Tagaytay, Talisay

## Have A Good View Of Life



# The view of good LIFE

Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club, lets you enjoy life on a different plane... giving you a good view on life.

With a magnificent view of the splendor of the Taal Volcano and Taal Lake, it is nestled in the gentle hills of Tagaytay/Talisay countryside. In this twenty six-hectares of lush beauty, modern facilities will rise.

Discover what Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club can offer you and enjoy a new perspective on life.

The Clubhouse holds function rooms for formal events and other small or large functions. It also houses fine dining restaurants, al fresco cafes, a music lounge, Videoke and Disco.

The Sports Pavilion is a haven for all sports enthusiasts. Enjoy basketball, bowling and billiards in both modern and natural surroundings. Skate in the outdoor rink and play racquet sports like tennis, badminton and table tennis.

Women and men alike have the opportunity to pamper themselves in the Spa, Jacuzzi and the Salon.

The Executive Pitch and Putt and Driving Range is designed by Golforce-- the premiere designer/developer of golf courses such as Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club (Cavite), Alabang Country Club (Muntinlupa), Camp John Hay Golf & Country Club (Baguio) and Fairways and Bluewater Golf & Country Club (Boracay).

Avid golfers will find the course challenging and fun. It is equipped with lighting facilities that will allow you play several rounds of golf even at night.

The Business Conference Center includes conference rooms with complete modern facilities and state-of-the art telecommunication systems to allow global connections. It is your office away from the office, dedicated to meet your various executive needs.

The Cottages, which boasts of tropical architecture with a distinctively Asian Flair, offer world-class vacation homes for the single traveler or for huge groups.

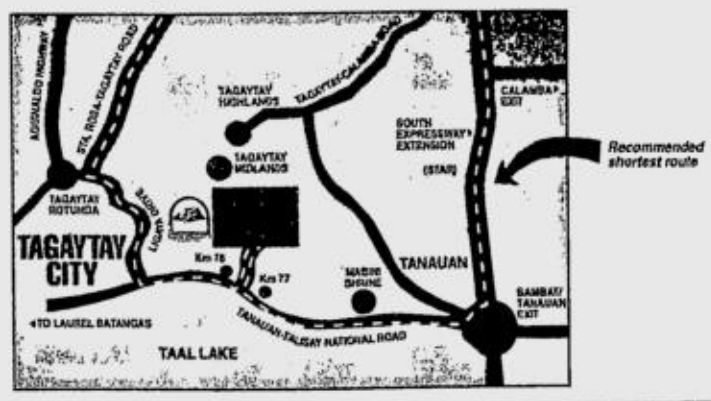
Innovative nature based facilities provide a variety of outdoor activities for the adventurous. Go camping and picnicking, rock climbing, horseback-riding and biking, hiking or jogging.

Rediscover the richness of natural life in the aviary, petting zoo, flower and butterfly gardens and a zoological park.

Buena Vista is a short distance to a long range of recreation. It is only an hour away from Manila with its own private road from the Tanauan-Talisay National Road for easier access.

The shortest route that we recommend is through the newly opened South Expressway (STAR) from Santo Tomas, Batangas. Take the first exit (Sambat/Tanauan) leading to Tanauan-Talisay National Road.

Another alternative is to exit Santa Rosa, leading towards the Tanauan-Talisay National Road via Ligaya Drive.

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